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A NEW

TREATISE

ON THE

METHOD

OF

BREEDING, BREAKING, AND TRAINING,

HORSES.

By WILLIAM WARD.

To chuse a youthful Steed, with courage fir'd,
To breed him, break him, back him, is requir'd
Th' experienc'd master.—— DRYD. VERG.

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1776

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARCHIBALD

EARL OF EGLINTOUNE.

MY LORD,

THE honour your Lordſhip has done me, in permitting me to dedicate theſe pages to your Lordſhip, ſhall ever be remembered with humility, and acknowledged with gratitude.

However unworthy of ſuch diſtinguiſhed kindneſs the performance itſelf may prove, it is not wonderful

your Lordſhip's generoſity ſhould allow you to become the patron of a work which at all carries the appearance of public utility. The many proofs this country may boaſt of your Lordſhip's readineſs to promote every attempt for the ſervice of ſociety in general, juſtifies this aſſertion: And, indeed, I could not dedicate this Treatiſe, with ſo much propriety, to any perſon, as to a Nobleman who has made the improvement of the moſt noble animal in the univerſe a part of his ſtudy; and whoſe efforts have been attended with uncommon ſucceſs. I muſt, however,

leave

leave the enumeration of your Lordſhip's merits to more able, though not more willing pens, and content myſelf with profeſſing, how much I am, and ever ſhall be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Moſt grateful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt devoted Servant,

W. WARD.

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

IT would ſeem to me altogether unneceſſary to write a preface to this work, but that cuſtom has rendered it a ſort of duty; ſomething is expected to be ſaid, though ever ſo little to the purpoſe; and prefaces are, for the moſt part, like modern prologues to plays, not intended to explain the nature of the deſign, but merely to 'precede the piece,' for form's ſake.

Horſes, of all other animals, are not only the moſt beautiful, but the moſt uſeful to ſociety; whether we conſider them as conducing to health, pleaſure, or profit. The advantages we derive, in buſineſs, from their labours, are obvious: And, though it ſeems rather foreign to my general ſubject to ſpeak of war, I muſt obſerve, that the courage and tractableneſs of horſes, in the field of battle, has often been of

of ſingular ſervice. Of this the gallant General Crawfurd, who had as much humanity as courage, was certainly convinced, when he wept over the death of his *brave Spaniard* *.

Alexander's horſe Bucephalus is ſaid to have ſaved his life, in the battle againſt Porus, by ruſhing through the midſt of the enemy, when covered with wounds: And it was in gratitude to the noble animal, and in memory of this event, that the hero built a city, near the river Hydaſpes, and called it Bucephalia.

Indeed, I have heard of perſons, who, by a ſtretch of imagination, have carried their attachment to favourite horſes to a ſtill higher pitch. The very particular attention Caligula ſhewed to his horſe is well known;

* So the General uſed to call a favourite Spaniſh horſe, killed at the battle of Krotzka

known ; and it is even ſaid, that he intended, had not the death of the creature prevented it, advancing him to the conſular dignity.

Among the Greeks, the victors in the horſe-race were crowned with laurel, &c ; and, beſides having other cuſtomary honours paid them, were celebrated by their poets. Pauſanius even mentions the erection of a monument in honour of a mare called Aura, whoſe rider, (Phidolas) having accidentally fallen off in a race at the Olympic games ; ſhe continued ſtill to run, as if he had been upon her back, outſtript all her competitors, and, ſeemingly ſenſible of her ſucceſs, preſented herſelf before the judges, who declared Phidolas victor, with permiſſion to erect a monument to himſelf, and the mare who had ſerved him ſo faithfully.

Upon the teſtimony of Pliny, we find it was common to honour thoſe horſes that

had been frequently victorious in the Olympic games with burial rites, and to erect magnificent monuments to their memories. And Timaeus ſays, that, at Agrigentum (whoſe horſes were eſteemed all over Greece for their beauty and ſwiftneſs) he ſaw ſeveral pyramids raiſed as ſepulchral monuments to celebrated horſes. He adds, that thoſe diſtinguiſhed racers, which were rendered incapable of further duty, were ſtill carefully attended, and paſſed the remainder of their days in eaſe, and without labour.

It were indeed tedious to enumerate all the inſtances that might be produced of the tractableneſs, the courage, the perſeverance, and, I had almoſt ſaid, the ſenſe, of horſes, or of the favourable lights in which, on thoſe accounts, they have been conſidered.

The antients did not know the value of horſes better than we do; but, it ſeems, they

they were more diſpoſed to reward their good qualities; and, though they carried partiality in this, as well as other inſtances, to ridiculous lengths, it is to be regretted, that, in ſome meaſure, we do not imitate them, and treat the animal, moſt conducive to our eaſe and happineſs, with care and tenderneſs, inſtead of cruelty and neglect.

Many treatiſes have been written for the ſervice of this uſeful creature; but moſt of them, I fear, in a ſtyle above the comprehenſion of the generality of readers. If a book, treating on the management and diſorders of horſes, was addreſſed to phyſicians, or perſons of a liberal education, terms of art, Greek and Latin quotations, might, perhaps, be not improperly introduced; but, when it is conſidered to whom the care of horſes is generally left, I mean grooms and jockies, who have more of uſeful experience than of learning, a work deſigned for *them* ſhould be brought to the level

level of their underſtandings: Nor can it be ſuppoſed, that even a gentleman farmer will begin to ſtudy the dead languages—in order to cure his horſe of the gripes?

In the following pages, I have endeavoured to lay down ſuch rules for the management and preſervation of horſes, as may be of general utility. The methods I have recommended are founded upon experience and obſervation; and I have delivered the whole in a way that will make it beſt underſtood by the meaneſt, and, I hope, not offend thoſe of more extenſive capacity. The inventions in this work are my own. As to the medical part of it, I have little pretence to more than a few receipts; the reſt are collected from the beſt authors, and perſons of great knowledge in this way; but I have not wantonly delivered them to the public, without having firſt experienced their good effects, as I have myſelf adminiſtered all thoſe I have recommended with all imagineble ſucceſs.

With

With the greateſt deference, I ſubmit this Eſſay to the judgment of the public; and, if what I have written is found, in any degree, beneficial to ſociety, I ſhall think myſelf amply rewarded for my labour.

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A

TREATISE

ON

HORSES.

ALTHOUGH many perſons have written on the diſorders incident to that noble animal the horſe, and on the various methods of curing thoſe diſorders, I believe no one hitherto has pointed out to the public the proper means to be employed in order to prevent them. To accompliſh this end, (ſurely a deſireable one, to thoſe who

know the value of a moſt uſeful animal), is the buſineſs of the following ſheets; in which I ſhall endeavour to ſhew, that proper care and attention, in the treatment of horſes, would render the farrier of little uſe, except in particular caſes of accidental diſorder.

And, *firſt*, I would adviſe thoſe gentlemen who are deſirous of, and have conveniences for, breeding good horſes, to be extremely careful in the choice of thoſe from which they breed them, whether they are intended for racing, hunting, the road, or carriage; and as, conſidering the prodigious difference in the ſeveral kinds of theſe uſeful creatures, ſuch caution is of material conſequence, I ſhall here lay down a rule for

The

The CHOICE *of, and* METHOD *of* BREEDING RACE-HORSES.

Let the mare be of a very high breed, perfectly ſound, and free of blemiſhes, with a good lengthy fore-hand, and the more roomy the better. Her pedigree ſhould be as different from that of the horſe you give her as poſſible; as I have known many gentlemen ſpoil their breed merely by running too much on the ſame horſe and mare, or their produce.

In chuſing your horſe, be particularly careful that he is perfectly ſound, his eyes good, clean legs, pleaſing countenance, and of good temper; his ſize muſt entirely depend on that of the mare. If you wiſh the breed ſhould be larger than your mare, let the horſe you give her be larger; if you deſire it ſhould be leſs, you may diminiſh it by a ſmaller ſtallion.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS *for ſending a* MARE *to the* HORSE.

If you intend the horſe you breed for the turf, the ſooner in the ſpring you get the mare covered the better; for, if you run the colt or filly at three or four years old, the advantage of a month or two will be conſiderable at the latter end of the year, as all colts of the ſame year carry the ſame weight, and fillies are allowed three pounds.

I would adviſe every perſon that has a good ſtallion, not to allow him to cover more than two mares in one day, morning and evening; as his getting too many mares may not only hurt the horſe, but, in my opinion, the produce cannot be ſo ſtrong.

The proper time for ſending a mare to the horſe is, either early in the morning, or in the cool of the evening; and her taking the horſe as ſhe is coming in or going out of

of *ſeaſon*, will make her more liable to hold than when ſhe is too keen. After ſhe has taken the horſe, let her be led about for ſome time; then put her into a ſtable by herſelf; try her again in eight days; and, if ſhe holds, ſhe will not receive the horſe again. You may then turn her to graſs; or, if you think proper, make uſe of her, with gentle work, all the ſummer, and turn her out about the month of November, taking care not to put her with any vicious horſe, where ſhe may be in danger of being kicked. By this caution and care, you may depend on having a fine foal.

After the mare has foaled, it will be proper to put her into as large a field or park as you poſſibly can, that the foal may have room to play and gallop about; this will give him a natural freedom of action, which otherwiſe would be more confined, and cauſe greater trouble to the breaker to put him in a proper *form*.

Take

Take the foal from the mare at a year old; let him run out all the next ſummer until Martinmas, then take him up, give him a roomy ſtall, or open ſtable; keep him in all the winter, and let him be led in hand to water twice a-day, and treated with all manner of kindneſs by the groom or keeper. Turn him out again in the ſpring, and let him run all the ſummer and winter following, providing a hovel or ſtable in the park or field, for him to go into in bad weather. If the winter be hard, it will be neceſſary to give him hay plentifully every day, and frequently a little corn, which ſhould be given out of the hand, to make him gentle. The ſpring, when three years old, he ſhould be taken up and put to work, after firſt taking a little blood from him, and allowing him to throw off his graſs; a rough-rider ſometimes will not allow a horſe to be ſhod till after he has backed him, a very bad practice, and ſhould not be allowed; for many horſes have had their feet ſo much battered

by

by that means, as to make them unſound during their lives.

The METHOD *of* BREAKING *a* HORSE *for the* TURF.

After having treated him as before mentioned, you may venture to put on his tackle; (ſee the frontiſpiece) faſten the ſide-reins of the bridle to the roller, with two buckles fixed for that purpoſe about the middle of his ſides, ſo as to let him feel the bitt, (which ſhould be large at firſt, and ſmaller after, as his mouth becomes hardened and uſed to it), but not too tight at firſt, ſo as to diſpleaſe him, as the treatment he firſt meets with will have a very great impreſſion on him, and make him like or diſlike his buſineſs. After he is reconciled to his tackle, you may leave him by himſelf for an hour or two; then take it off again, and encourage him, by ſtroaking him on the

the neck, giving him corn out of your hand, &c. The next day, you may lead him out with his tackle on; but be careful not to lunge him, a practice often made uſe of, and which I would never recommend, but to horſes intended for the road or carriage. It will be proper to lead him out frequently for ſome days, walking by his ſide, and laying your arm on his back, (as in frontiſpiece), ſo as to make him feel ſome weight; then eaſily raiſe yourſelf on your belly acroſs his back; but do it not raſhly, a practice too much made uſe of, and often attended with bad conſequences. If he ſhould plunge, humour him a little; then try him again, till you find him reconciled; you may then put your leg over him, but do it with caution and gentleneſs; he certainly will then plunge again; but you muſt by no means check him with the bridle, the reins faſtened to the roller will be ſufficient to hold him; and, by checking him, you hurt his mouth, (which will be tender, not having been uſed to the bitt) and make him plunge the

the more. After he is a little quiet, encourage him, and make him walk gently on; and continue to do ſo till he can do it completely. Then you may let him trot gently, at times, for a few days; and, by treating him kindly, and encouraging him in this manner, he will become as fond of you as you can be of him, and perform his work with pleaſure. Be careful, when you firſt put him to the gallop, that no horſe be near him, and likewiſe that you put him off with the right leg firſt, to teach him to go in a good form and graceful attitude, and as ſlow as you pleaſe, ſo as to bring him on gradually to his ſpeed.

There are many people who, perhaps, will think this method ſomewhat ſtrange, as it is widely different from any hitherto practiſed but by myſelf; but, as it is from experience, not from general rule, I intend to treat, I have the vanity to hope, every gentleman who ſtudies his own intereſt, and the ſafety of his horſes, will adopt this plan.

I am very certain, more good horſes are ſpoiled by the rutic ill-judged treatment of the breaker, than by any other means; for horſes, well-bred, are naturally of a mild diſpoſition; and, by being treated mildly, may be brought to any thing you pleaſe.

METHOD *of* TRAINING.

It is a very groſs miſtake that grooms run into with regard to phyſic. They think it impoſſible for a horſe to run without having gone through a regular courſe of it, not conſidering whether he has occaſion for it or not. It cannot be imagined, that a colt, which has never done any work, or received any bad meat, can, generally ſpeaking, have occaſion for it; but when, in caſes of peculiar accident, it may be neceſſary, I would recommend bleeding, and a gentle doſe of phyſic. What medicines are proper, will be more particularly mentioned in the courſe of this work. To an old horſe,

horſe, or one that has been long in training, it will be neceſſary to give more, according to the buſineſs he has done. If the groom has an opportunity of getting fine clover, or good graſs, I would adviſe foiling in the ſtable as frequently in the courſe of the ſummer as poſſible, conſidering the time he is to run again, as it will cool him, and anſwer the uſe of phyſic. But the beſt thing to prevent the want of it, is to give your horſes clean food; for diſorders are frequently brought upon them by not having proper attention paid to that article. As it is, therefore, of the firſt conſequence to have your horſe well fed, after the expence and trouble of well breeding him, I will attempt to lay down a general rule for that purpoſe.

Be particularly careful in the choice of your oats, that they are large, ſound, and free from a bad ſmell, and the older the better; put them into a ſack, take a ſtick or flail, beat them well, till the rough huſks come off; winnow the chaff from them, and ſift them

them perfectly clean; mix them with a few ſplit-peas or beans, or bran, and feed your horſe according to his appetite; for inſtance, if he takes his meat freely, you may give him the greater quantity at once; if he [illegible] leſs, and as frequently as you can, conſiſtent with the ſtable hours; and this ſhould be done as early in the morning as poſſible, ſo as to get his exerciſe over, and your horſe properly cleaned and fed before eight in the morning; and be very careful not to leave him until his legs, and every part of his body, are perfectly dry, and the ſtable made as dark as poſſible. His hay ſhould be old, ſweet-ſmelled, and well drawn, ſo as to cleanſe it from all manner of weeds, duſt, filth, or any thing that may injure his wind, and not too much given.

For the method of exerciſe, there is no general rule; it muſt depend upon the conſtitution or ſtrength of the horſe; but be very careful not to put him to ſevere work till

till he is able to bear it; give him walking exercife, at leaft ten days after his phyfic, by which time he will be ftrong and able to receive his gallops, which fhould be brought on gradually, and according to the time you intend him to ftart; give him a gentle fweat once in eight days. If the horfe is fat, put the more cloaths on him, and do not hurry him; for it is better to take off his flefh by walking exercife than fevere fweats. After his fweat, give him a little white wine and water; make him perfectly dry, put clean cloaths on him, and walk him out again. Before you come in, give him a gentle canter, and, that day, a mafh of bran fcalded with boiling water, and a few oats, and ½ ounce of nitre will not be amifs; give him warm water to drink, with a little oat meal in it; and do not take him out again that day. If you think the water hard you meet with on the exercifing ground, take care, every morning, to draw a tub-full, and put a handful of chalk among it, [illegible] fame in the evening [illegible]

morning,

morning, by which means you will prevent the jawpifs, a moft difagreeable diforder attending race-horfes, and which caufes many a good one to lofe the race; as it is one of the moft weakening things in the world, therefore every precaution fhould be taken to prevent it. The next day, you may give him a bruſhing gallop; and, the nearer you come to the time of running, you may bring him on in fpeed. The night before he is to ſtart, give him about 16 go-downs of water, and put him on the muſſil before you leave him, (which ſhould alſo be done the very ſame every night before he gets his ſweat). Get up early in the morning, give him two or three handfuls of corn, and walk him out a little, giving him a ſlow canter, and 6 go-downs of water; get him plated, and, at the proper time, lead him out, which ſhould be half an hour before ſtarting, with all manner of cal...nets, and not too much cloaths on. But, before you ride a horſe to any place to run, firſt conſider what ground he runs on beſt, and what weight he is beſt able to carry; make choice of a rider that is cautious

tious and temperate, and by no means put your horſe beyond what he is able to do; for, by that means, you may cruſh him in the bud; if he even does not ſucceed when you firſt ſtart him, treat him gently, and try him again where you find it convenient, as there are many horſes that will run at 4 years old, others at 5 and 6; ſome do not run well till they are aged; for inſtance, I have known many ſmall horſes at 4 years old run extremely well; at 5, tolerably; at 6, very bad, at 7, not worth a hat full of crabs, as the Jockies term it. Other horſes, of a greater ſize, are quite the reverſe; as a colt of 15 hands 2 inches, and gradually higher, cannot run till he is 5 or 6 years old, or aged, and then turn out extremely good. I once trained a colt myſelf of 15½ hands high, run him at four years old, was beat a diſtance; tried him again at 5 years old, he proved a little better; and, at 6, he diſtanced the very ſame horſe that diſtanced him at 4 years old, which, I hope, will be taken as a convincing

proof

proof of what I have advanced on this ſubject.

In the next place, I ſhall endeavour to ſhow,

The METHOD *of* BREEDING *and* TRAINING HUNTERS.

Take a handſome well bred half-bred mare, perfectly ſound in every reſpect; (for it is a miſtaken notion many people run into, that if a mare is old, lame, blind, or has any diſorder attending her, ſhe may, notwithſtanding, do well enough to breed from, as the foal is certainly incident, in a great meaſure, to the diſorders of the horſe or mare from which it is bred; and proper care ſhould be taken that they are both perfectly ſound); if the mare has a great deal of bone, ſize, and ſtrength, I would adviſe giving her the higheſt bred horſe you can find; that, as the mare gives ſtrength, the horſe

horſe may give blood, and enable their produce to go through properly, and anſwer the purpoſe intended. With regard to the treatment of a hunter while young, you may, in ſome reſpect, obſerve the rule laid down with regard to the race-horſe, only, that you need not be ſo particular with reſpect to his keeping or breaking. If you intend him for hunting intirely, you may take him up at three years old; break him thoroughly; which may be done ſomewhat different from the method laid down for a race-horſe. For example, as the colt will be ſtronger, and, by not having been kept ſo much in hand as the former, (nor do I think there is any occaſion for it) he will be more unruly; there I would particularly recommend to the breaker, to be as mild as poſſible; but, if he finds him obſtinate, he may lunge him, or walk him till he is tired, on light plowed land, before he ventures to get on his back; and, by this means, he will not plunge ſo much. I have known ſome rough-riders throw them down for ſeveral times after

firſt mounting them. This method I by no means approve of, if it can be prevented, which may be done by a little patience, and treating the colt well. After you have brought him to all his paces, and made him perfectly quiet, you may turn him out again, and, if you have an opportunity, the more frequently you uſe him to come to hand the better; and, by giving him corn out of your hand or hat, &c. you will make him very fond of you. At four, take him up again, and complete him for his buſineſs, by making him trot and gallop temperately, (for the greateſt perfection of a hunter is to do his buſineſs calmly). In the courſe of the ſummer, when four years old, you may learn him to leap, which ſhould be done over a bale, with a little furze faſtened round it, as he will, perhaps, be a little careleſs at firſt of raiſing his fore-legs, or bringing over his hind ones; but, by means of the ſmall pricks he will receive, he will grow a little more careful. When you bring him firſt to leap, do it very

very cautiouſly, and do not hurry him, for, by that means, you make him hurt himſelf, and diſpleaſed with what you put him to. When firſt you try him, let not the bale be more than three feet high; if he can ſtep over it neatly, let him do it. I think, in a hunting-field, there is not ſo graceful an attitude as a horſe ſtepping over what he thinks too mean for him to leap at. You may then raiſe the bale a little higher, and encourage him, ſo as to make him pleaſed with it. I brought a horſe, by that eaſy method, to walk under a bale, and leap over it afterwards; nay, I even rode a horſe under and over the ſame without altering it. Theſe are things, indeed, that I would not adviſe any gentleman to try; for it is ſufficient if a horſe can leap over a 5 barred gate, or 5 foot wall, and the more you can avoid leaps the better. There are many gentlemen who go into a hunting-field, and think they cannot take too many leaps, or ride too faſt, ſo as to be conſtantly up with the *tail* of the hounds, to ſhew their horſeman-

ſhip

ſhip and judgment; a very miſtaken notion; for the more cautious you ride, and the more leaps you avoid, the better; and make the moſt of the ground, ſo as to give your horſe as little work as poſſible; by which means the rider will find himſelf very little fatigued, and his horſe in good ſpirits at the end of the day.

I would adviſe every gentleman, if he is deſirous of keeping a good hunter, or being carried well, not to put a horſe to the field till he is five years old, unleſs with a very light weight, and then not too frequently, ſo as to hurt him; for a horſe never comes to his proper ſtrength till he is five or ſix years old; and many good horſes have been ſpoiled by having been uſed too ſoon, and overburdened by riders they have not been able to carry.

The

The METHOD *of Treating a* HUNTER.

After the hunting ſeaſon is over, turn him out all the ſummer; but be careful to prevent him taking cold, which muſt be done as follows: Take his cloaths off by degrees, and never ſuffer him to be bruſhed over, or his ſtall cleaned; and open the windows of the ſtable. After you have treated him in this manner for a few days, you may turn him out; but, before that, it would be proper to take a little blood from his neck; and be careful that the orifice be properly healed, as the motion of his mouth, and the hanging down of his head, may cauſe the wound to bleed afreſh, or ſwell, which is frequently attended with bad conſequences. After this is done, take him up for a few nights, then make choice of a fine calm evening, and turn him out; let him get no meat the preceeding day in the ſtable, that he may be fond of the graſs; and, by his motion, prevent him from taking cold. If the ground

you

you ſoil him on be ſoft and free from ſtones, you may take off his hind-feet ſhoes, and let his fore ones be tacked on ſo that he may throw them off in the courſe of the time he is out, as it will be a means of cooling and improving his feet. You may take him up the beginning of September. The firſt thing neceſſary is to let him ſtand a few hours and throw off the graſs; the next day take a little blood from him; and, according to the health, conſtitution, or ſoil the horſe has fed on, you may give him phyſic; but, for my own part, I would adviſe as little of that as poſſible; for, if he is a horſe of a good conſtitution, and the graſs good he has eat, there will be little occaſion for it, as I think nature the beſt phyſician; but for thoſe who will inſiſt on phyſic, I ſhall point out what I think moſt proper. Where there is any appearance of foulneſs in the urinary paſſages, I would recommend a medicine known to farmers, called *piſſing balls*; and I ſhall enlarge more on this ſubject in its proper place.

After

After you have treated him in this manner, give him the neweſt hay you can get, to bring him gradually on from graſs to the approved old hay. Give him plenty of walking exerciſe, and as much as poſſible with the hounds when airing, to make him more acquainted with them, and the leſs cloaths you put on him in the ſtable the better, as too great indulgence there might render him ſtill more ſubject to catch cold in the field. After you have got ſome meat in him, you may put him to galloping exerciſe, and make him take his leaps gradually every day over the bale; and, as I have met with many leaps that I did not think proper to ride over, I made it my ſtudy to find out a method both eaſy for myſelf and horſe.

While you are training your hunter, let your groom faſten a long rein to the check or bitt of the bridle; ſtand by the horſe's ſide when he takes his leap; if he offers to go forward, whenever you give him a gentle check back, make him turn his face to you,

and

and ſtand till you have come over the bale yourſelf; encourage him, and repeat the ſame every day, or twice a day; by that means, he will ſtand of his own accord. By this practice, when you come to a ditch you do not chuſe to leap over, faſten the laſh of your whip to the rein of his bridle, and he will ſtand till you come to him again. To ſome this may ſeem a little ſtrange; but I have made a horſe do it when the hounds were in full cry.

When the day's ſport is over, and you are returning home, walk coolly all the way; as ſoon as you come to the ſtable, let his legs and feet be waſhed clean with warm water, his feet well picked, and rubbed extremely dry, and every part of his body made very clean; give him warm water to drink, with a little oat meal in it; litter him well; let his hay be old and good, the beſt of corn, and clean ſifted, his feet greaſed, and ſtuffed with cows dung. The next morning, examine his ſhoes that they are faſt,

faſt, ſet well on his feet, and the tops of the nails do not come through, &c. This being done, feed him, get him well dreſſed, and take him out to exerciſe, which ſhould be twice a day; thoſe days he does not hunt, if the weather will admit of it, a little goole-greaſe, or neat's-foot oil at night, rubbed into his fetlock joints, and cleaned out with an woolen cloth, will keep them free from cracks or ſcurf; but, if neglected, ſand or dirt may gather, and the remedy be worſe than the diſeaſe, as the heels of horſes, if not attended to in the above manner, will be ſubject to cracks, which frequently bring on the greaſe. As this, from neglect, may ſometimes be the caſe, I ſhall, in the medical part of this work, preſcribe an effectual method of cure. But proper care and attention is requiſite to feed well, and keep him perfectly clean; and, by rubbing his legs frequently, to make the blood circulate, and prevent a ſwelling in the heels, which always precedes this diſorder. Indeed, from the neglect of this, different diſorders may

arife, which may be prevented by the above practice. This being properly attended to, the horfe will be enabled to hunt three days in a week, with a weight that he is maſter of, which ſhould be conſidered, if you are deſirous of being carried well. After the hunting ſeaſon is over, treat him as before mentioned, taking his cloaths off by degrees, drawing a little blood from him, and preparing him in ſuch a manner as to prevent him from taking cold. See p. 21.

The Method of Breeding Horſes for the Road.

It would be abſurd in me to attempt giving a preciſe rule for this purpoſe; but what I conceive may anſwer beſt the different uſes for which you intend the horſe, I ſhall endeavour to lay down under three heads.

Firſt,

Firſt, If you want a horſe for the uſe of the road, the beſt mare you can take to breed from is a handſome working mare; but be careful her fore-hand be good, her legs clean, good feet, fine eyes, and ſmall head, and not more than ſeven years old at moſt. The horſe you give her I would recommend to be what the breeders call the *chapman-horſe*, or good hunter. If the mare be very ſtrong, a high-bred horſe, with a good deal of bone, will be better.

Second, For the uſe of farmers, or people that only ride a few miles to market, or to their neighbouring towns, the more generally uſeful a horſe he has, I ſuppoſe the better, that will either travel with him or work in the plough or cart, carry double, or occaſionly draw a whiſky or chair. To obtain ſuch a horſe, make choice of a good ſtrong cart mare, the more handſome the better, and perfectly ſound; put her to a ſtrong well made chapman-horſe, and you will find that the produce will anſwer every

end

end intended. The ſame may be made uſe of with regard to carriage-horſes, as the above-mentioned mare and horſe will anſwer the purpoſe of a carriage perfectly well. But, to thoſe gentlemen who chuſe to have lighter kind of cattle for their carriages, I would recommend a ſtout road-mare, and the chapman, or ſtrong hunting horſe, which are at this time moſt made uſe of.

Third, From experience, I have found, that the moſt proper horſes for the cart are thoſe bred from Mr Bakewell's horſes, from Diſhley in Leiceſter-ſhire, which are bonny, ſtrong, good ſize, and active of their kind; and, with the ſtrong black mares bred in Lincoln-ſhire and Leiceſter-ſhire, are the beſt for a heavy country, or the purpoſe of drays, or brewers ſledges in London: and, from a high-bred mare, I have known one of Mr Bakewell's horſes get the beſt road and hunting horſes in the country.

The

The Manner of Breeding the three different kinds of Horſes, mentioned in the preceeding Pages.

Firſt, The ROAD HORSE.

After you have ſent the mare to the horſe, which ſhould be done after the manner made uſe of in the beginning of this work, and tried the ſame, till ſhe refuſes the horſe, when you may be certain that ſhe will hold; you may uſe her gently till the month of March following, then turn her out; and, after ſhe has foaled, if you keep her on purpoſe for breeding, you may try her with the horſe again in a fortnight; but I would rather adviſe you to let her be covered only once in two years, that you may have the uſe of her after you have taken the foal from her, which ſhould be at a year old. Be careful, whatever horſe you breed, whether for racing, hunting, or horſes for the road or cart, that, after the foal is taken away

way from the mare, the milk does not go through her body, which may be prevented by milking her once or twice a day, and gradually decreasing the quantity you take from her, till she is perfectly dry; by that means you lose but little use of the mare, and make her produce the stronger. However, I must leave every person to study their own convenience in that respect, as it can make no material difference; for I have known cart-mares draw the harrows, cart, or plough, and been taken out to foal. But, if any person should think proper to do so, let them by no means put her into the shafts, as, in a rough road, they may hurt the mare, by knocking against her sides, and sometimes occasion her death, or that of the foal, and perhaps both. It is too much the custom of farmers that breed, to put the mare into the cart a few days after she has foaled, letting the foal walk at her feet a day together, and to repeat this every day through the summer. I would ask any sensible person, if he is desirous of having

having a good horſe, whether he thinks that treatment right? Certainly not; for it is impoſſible for a young foal to travel, day after day, in hot weather, and not to be the worſe for it. Even, if that was not the caſe, the mare's milk is ſo heated by her work, that it can do the foal but little good. I would adviſe every perſon to make uſe of the mare as little as poſſible during the time the foal is at her foot. You may take him from the mare at a year old; after he has forgot his dam, you may turn him out again till you think proper to break him, which you may do at three years old; but be very careful to make him perfectly gentle, and learn him his different paces properly. For the method of breaking, ſee p. 7. As walking and trotting well are the greateſt requiſites for a road horſe, pay proper attention to that when young. Some gentlemen are fond of a horſe that canters on the road, becauſe it is eaſy; but, for a perſon that is going a long journey, or has frequent journies to make, that action ſhould be

be avoided as much as poſſibl , excepting at particular times, which will be explained more fully in my advice to a traveller, in the courſe of this work.

The Method of Treating an uſeful Horſe for a Farmer.

I have, in ſome of the preceding page , remarked upon the proper treatment of mares with foal; a repetition would be needleſs, as all kinds of mares in that ſituation ſhould be treated with equal care. Take up her produce at two years old, and break him, which may be done in a different manner from, and with leſs trouble, than any other kind of horſes, for which I have laid down a rule. For example, at two years old you may uſe him in the plough, harrow, or cart, now and then, but not ſo as to diſtreſs him. If you have any corn, meal, or oats &c. to carry a ſhort diſtance, make uſe of him for that purpoſe; but be careful to lay them gently on his back;

back, by which means he will be ſo reconciled to carrying burdens, as to admit of your riding him, without giving you any, or very little trouble. If you are deſirous of making him carry double, the beſt way to break him for that purpoſe is, to put the pad on him gently, and not make the *crupper* too tight. As few women would chuſe to ride a horſe firſt, in order to uſe him, without danger to this buſineſs, let a man get on him, then bring him to the *upping-block*; let another man, or boy, be ready to mount him, with a petticoat or ſlip on him, ſuch as women ride in; for, though he might carry two men perfectly well, yet the ruſtling of the woman's dreſs might frighten him, and be attended with bad conſequences to her. By practiſing this a few times, the horſe will carry double completely, and anſwer every other purpoſe you intend.

The manner of breaking cart horſes is ſo well known to every farmer, that it would be needleſs for me to mention it; only obſerve,

ſerve, a horſe ſhould be treated gently when firſt put to work, and care taken that he does not hurt himſelf with the harneſs, nor give him too much of it, until he comes to his proper ſtrength, and is able to bear it. This ſhould be carefully attended to in every kind of horſe you breed; for there are more good horſes ſpoiled by being worked too hard when young, than by any other thing. Let a horſe come to his proper ſtrength, feed him well, and keep him clean, he will have no occaſion for phyſic, and do his work completely.

I have made mention of four different kinds of horſes; and, as I would not wiſh to ſlip any opportunity, or neglect the leaſt hint that might add to the ſervice of the public, I ſhall here mention one more, that is wanted for the advantage of ſome perſons of this country (Scotland.) There are an infinite number of fine little Galloways bred in the Highlands, Orkneys, Iſle of Mull, and Shetland, which are extremely ſmall, but

but very hardy; and it is much to be regretted, that the gentlemen in this country do not improve that breed; perhaps it may be from their not knowing how to do it. I would with to recommend a horſe or two for that purpoſe: The Arabian, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, and a famous little horſe, well known by the name of *Cade*, and late the property of Sir John Whitefoord. I have ſeen the get of both, and think them extremely handſome, and properly fit for ladies pads, or for the uſe of young gentlemen, or carrying a light weight on the road, drawing a whiſky, garden-chair, or light phaeton.

The moſt Approved Method of GELDING.

There are ſome people who breed horſes, and who geld them immediately after they are taken from the mare, which is totally wrong; for it not only endangers the colt, but ſometimes

times cauſes him to dwindle, and prevents him from receiving that ſtrength and ſize that he otherwiſe would have. To prevent which, I would geld him in the latter end of ſummer, when riſing three years; he then will be better able to undergo the operation; and, by its being done when the heat of the ſummer is over, he will the ſooner be well, as he will have no deſire for a mare, which, when the operation is performed in the ſpring, is too often the caſe, and is ſometimes attended with bad conſequences. My reaſon for not gelding a colt until he is riſing three years old is, that the longer you can keep him with his ſtones the better, as it helps his fore-hand, gives him a better riſe in the neck, and cauſes him to receive his proper growth. It may not be convenient for every breeder to keep a colt ſo long with his ſtones, as they ſometimes turn troubleſome; if that ſhould be the caſe, geld him in the end of the ſummer when riſing two years old; and be careful to keep him in the ſtable till the parts are healed, and

put

put him into a field by himself for some time, until he is perfectly well. The manner of performing the operation will be hereafter mentioned.

If you keep a horse intirely for covering, do not give him a mare until he is four years old; for, by so doing, you do not your horse proper justice, nor your friend that sends a mare to him; for a horse that is not come to his proper perfection himself, is certainly not able to get a good foal. On the other hand, I would not recommend a very old horse or mare to breed from, but a medium betwixt both, and perfectly sound, (which I have mentioned before) and then their produce will undoubtedly be good.

I hope I have said enough on the method of breeding, breaking, and training the different kinds of horses mentioned in the preceeding pages, to enable every gentleman, farmer, traveller, and breeder, to direct his servants, if he has not an experienced groom, how

how to treat them; and, even though he has a good groom, it may not be amiſs to let him know, that he may acquire ſome additional knowledge of the matter himſelf; for the moſt of them treat horſes more by rule than practice, not conſidering the nature, temper, and diſpoſition of the horſe they have to deal with: And I would adviſe every perſon, who withes to have a good quiet horſe, to pay him ſome little attention when young himſelf; and, by obſerving the rule laid down in this work, with regard to training, he will find it greatly to his eaſe and advantage.

Advice to every Gentleman, or Perſons who are obliged to travel on Horſeback.

From more than ten years experience in the travelling way, I intend to deliver to my readers an account of the advantages I reaped from the care and attention I paid to my horſes,

horſes, which were attended with ſuch good effects, that I remember to have taken notice, in the courſe of one year, I rode the ſame horſe more than three thouſand miles, (the kind of horſe for the road I have mentioned). But every perſon ſhould make choice of his horſe according to the weight he is to carry, and the length of the journey you intend to take. By no means ſet out on your journey with your horſe full of graſs, but let him have been in the ſtable on hard meat at leaſt two or three weeks before, not forgetting to have a little blood taken from his neck the day after he comes from the graſs; and be careful that his hay and corn are both good; walk him out a few miles every day; it will not only be of ſervice to him, but, by your being uſed to his motion, in a manner, prepare you for the journey.

If you begin a journey in the heat of ſummer, the earlier you ſet out in the morning the better; for the cool of the morning and evening is certainly not only more agreeable

greeable to the rider, but much better for the horſe. If the journey you are about to undertake is long, let your horſe go gently for the firſt mile or two, then bring him gradually on till you come near to the end of the ſtage, ſo as to make him carry you about five or ſix miles in an hour. If you can meet with any good water about a mile or half a mile from the ſtage you mean to ſtop at, give him ſome; if he is perfectly cool, let him drink what he pleaſes, and walk him gently till you come to the inn, as it will make him eat his hay better; and care ſhould be taken that it is freſh; for the oſtlers in moſt inns, to ſave themſelves trouble, generally cram the rack as full as it will admit, and no horſe likes to eat what another has blown upon; therefore, I would order it to be taken out, and freſh hay put in, but not too much at a time. After he is in the ſtable, do not let his ſaddle be taken off immediately, only ſlacken his girths ſo as to cool his back; get his feet well picked, and his legs rubbed dry and clean,

and

Fig. 1. Plate.

and examine his ſhoes that they ſit well on his feet, and that the nails do not come thro', ſo as to make him cut himſelf, in the next ſtage, which is too frequently the caſe, by that precaution being neglected. You may then feed him; but obſerve that the oats are good, freſh, and well ſmelled, and a few beans, given with his oats frequently, will be proper; make the oſtler clean the manger before he puts the corn into it. If the horſe eats freely, give him a full feed at once; if not, at twice; giving him a little water between feeds, which will encourage him to eat the ſecond; but, before you feed him, let his ſaddle be taken off, and himſelf well dreſſed, and made perfectly clean, which will greatly refreſh him. You may give him an hour and a half, and then prepare for your next ſtage, and treat him as before mentioned; but be very careful to ſee him well cleaned and fed at every ſtage, and proper attention paid to his feet, as, in hard roads, and hot weather, he will require it. If it be a hot day, ſtay at your ſecond ſtage

till the cool of the evening; then ſet out again, and do not hurry him; for you will come at your purpoſe ſooner and better, and with leſs fatigue to the horſe and yourſelf by that means. A conſtant moderate pace is the beſt for a journey; and, in particular, if it be a long one you intend to take. Some people are very fond of cantering on the road; I diſapprove of it very much, as it is a pace that fatigues a horſe exceedingly, unleſs now and then, when you come to a bit of good ſoft road, or piece of turf by the road ſide; you may, in that caſe, give him a canter for a mile or ſo, which will rather refreſh him, by altering his pace, and make him trot the better after it. The diſtance I would adviſe every traveller to go in a day, ſhould not be more than forty-five miles, or fifty at moſt, which, according to moſt roads I have travelled, will be three ſtages; although they may not all be of an equal diſtance, yet it makes but little difference to the horſe in the end of the day; but the more equally you can divide the

ſtages

ſtages the better. I have known people travel ſixty, ſeventy, or eighty miles a day; that may be done for one or two days with a very good horſe; but, if more ſhould be attempted, it is moſt probable, in the long run, he will fail, fall lame, back-pinched, and grow full of other diſorders horſes are incident to, by not being well uſed upon the road. How diſagreeable muſt it be to ride a lame horſe a long journey? Beſides, the horſe that has been well treated, and goes a moderate pace, and a regular number of miles every day, will perform his journey much ſooner, and be perfectly well when he comes to the end of it.

When you arrive at the place where you intend ſtaying all night, take care that your horſe gets a roomy ſtall, as far as poſſible from the door, and obſerve that there are no holes before his head, where the wind may come in, for it is apt to give him cold; a very diſagreeable diſorder when on the road, and which, like many other diſorders,

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are much eaſier prevented than cured. After he has got ſome freſh hay, let his legs be well rubbed, his feet clean picked, and waſhed with warm water; but, if a horſe ſhould be ever ſo dirty, do not ſuffer the oſtler to take him to the river to waſh him, a very bad practice made uſe of by moſt oſtlers on the road; therefore orders ſhould be given, the moment you enter the inn-yard, that he may not be treated in that manner; for, if the horſe is in the leaſt warm, it will bring on a founder. It is common too with grooms, to ſave themſelves the trouble of watering in the ſtable, which ſhould be done when they are perfectly cool, to ſuffer them to drink, while they are waſhing their legs in the river, as much water as they chuſe; this almoſt inevitably brings on the gripes, a diſorder which frequently proves fatal to the horſe, eſpecially in country-places, where you will find it difficult to procure a farrier that knows what to apply for the cure, but ſometimes do more harm than good. If,

by

by neglect, the horſe ſhould meet with ſuch treatment when he comes into the ſtable, he will begin to ſhiver; the moment you perceive it, put a cloth on him, and let him be trotted until he becomes warm, and the ſhiver has intirely left him. After his return to the ſtable, keep the cloth on him, and let him ſtand for ſome time; get him well dreſſed, his ſhoes examined, feet greaſed, and ſtuffed with cow-dung, then give him a feed; let him ſtand for an hour, and feed him again; for it is better to give him his corn at twice than once, as, by ſuffering a horſe to eat too much at a time, it clogs the appetite, but, when given in ſmall quantities, it has a different effect.

But, when the careleſſneſs of your groom or oſtler has not rendered theſe precautions neceſſary for the ſafety of your horſe, you need only, after he has ſtood about an hour in the ſtable, let him be perfectly well cleaned, his feet greaſed and ſtuffed, &c. as before mentioned; give him a feed about half

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an hour after; let him have a pail-full of warm water, and a little meal in it, and let him eat a little hay afterwards, and feed him again after he has done; with a ſecond feed, you may give him a ſufficient quantity of hay to ſerve him all night; and obſerve that he has a good bed, plenty of ſtraw, and that perfectly dry. See that his collar be faſtened well, ſo that he may not be liable to hurt himſelf in the ſtable. Early in the morning, let him be well cleaned, and give him only a very few oats; for a horſe will not travel ſo well with a heavy feed in his ſtomach as when empty. Let him be ſaddled; ſee that the ſaddle ſits well on his back, and not too far forward, ſo as to pinch him; if the ſaddle be too wide, a crupper will be neceſſary, or point-ſtrap, to the ſaddle, which will prevent it from hurting him. If, in the courſe of your journey, you find him in the leaſt hurt in the back, be careful to waſh it with old vinegar, or ſalt and water, laying a cloth on his back; if you ſhould find it grow worſe, it will be neceſ-

ſary

ſary to get the ſaddle chambered, ſo as to eaſe the part diſordered; but be careful every other part be made ſmooth, ſo that by eaſing one part you do not hurt the other. By this care and attention to your horſe, you will be well carried, and he will continue in perfect health during the courſe of your journey, let it be ever ſo long. I have rode the ſame horſe ſeven years; was ſeldom or never off his back, except at proper intervals; yet he performed his work completely; never had the leaſt diſorder or illneſs attending him; and I always found him better at the end of his journey than when he firſt ſet off. And I am certain, that every gentleman or traveller who adopts the above plan, will be ſufficiently recompenſed for his attention, and always have a good horſe at command.

If, after your return from one journey, you are in a ſhort time to undertake another, and have it in your power to turn your horſe to graſs, (if in the ſummer ſeaſon) or ſoil

him

him in the ſtable with good freſh clover, which will clean and cool him, and is infinitely better than all the phyſic in the world. Previous to this ſecond journey, give him time to throw off his graſs, get ſome hard meat in him, and treat him in the manner recommended in ſome of the preceeding pages, and there will not be the leaſt doubt of his performing his work properly.

A New Conſtruction of a LEAPING-BALE.

I have already made mention of the method of teaching horſes to leap, and ſhall now offer to the public a bale, on a conſtruction intirely new; the common form being, in my opinion, by no means ſufficient to prevent the horſe from hurting himſelf, when taking a leap higher than what he is able to clear. The common conſtruction of a leaping-bale I ſhall endeavour to deſcribe.

There

There are two posts erected and fixed in the ground, with a groove in the middle of each, and holes pierced through them from top to bottom, and the bar supported by two iron bolts, that pull out and in occasionally, so as to raise it higher, or make it lower, as you think proper, is placed between them.

With this kind of bale, a horse that cannot clear his leap is liable to hurt himself, by getting his legs across it; or, if the leap be more than he is able to perform, sometimes hang himself by the flank; as, from the construction of the bale, it is impossible to pull out the bolts, so as to let him down on his feet with safety, the pressure of the horse being too great on the roller. In this case, the horse is in danger of being lamed, or otherwise hurt, which may be prevented by the following

New Conſtruction of the Bale.

Let the poſts of the bale be nine feet high, and the roller ſeven feet in length, from poſt to poſt; make a groove in the middle of each of them, to admit the iron fixed to both ends of the roller, which is to be drawn up or let down at pleaſure, or fixed at any place you pleaſe, by the help of a wheel fixed to the poſt, about five, or five and a half feet from the ground; let a ſtrong leather belt be faſtened by a ſwivel to the iron ends of the roller, and the ſame in the wheel, at the ſides of the bale; as you wind it up by a *windlaſs*, the moment you ceaſe to turn it, it ſtops; and, in caſe the horſe ſhould not be maſter of the leap you put him to, and throw himſelf acroſs the roller, he can be let down, by turning the windlaſs the contrary way, with the greateſt eaſe imaginable. The expence of erecting this bale will be but a trifle more

more than the common one; and, I am certain, every gentleman will find his advantage in it, by not leaving the horſe he intends teaching to leap to the danger of being hurt.

Deſcription of the Leaping-Bar.

A, the handle of the windlaſs; C, the chain which runs on the windlaſs; B, the roller, which, by the help of the windlaſs, may be let down to the ground, or drawn up to the height of ſix feet. The other plate repreſents a horſe entangled, or hanging acroſs the bar, and proves the uſe of the windlaſs; as, by the aſſiſtance of too men, the horſe can be let to the ground on his feet with the greateſt eaſe and ſafety.

There is another danger to which horſes, from accident and negligence, are expoſed when in the ſtable, and by which many a good

good one has been loſt. It is common, in the night-time, for a horſe to tumble about in the ſtable, as uſed to do in the fields; and, if the collar or halter be not placed with great care, he gets his feet over it, twiſts it about his neck, or other parts of his body, and moſt probably, either lames or chokes himſelf. To remedy this evil, I ſhall propoſe an invention, which, I flatter myſelf, will, upon examination, be found a ſafeguard againſt the greateſt carelеſſneſs and neglect: I mean,

A New invented STALL, *which will prevent the moſt reſtleſs Horſe from hurting himſelf.*

Let the width of the ſtall be at leaſt ſix feet, and the length ſuch as to prevent one horſe from kicking another when they ſtand back; let the manger be three feet high, and the top of it made with a roller like that

that of a leaping-bale, only that it need not be ſo big. My reaſon for this is, that I have known many horſes hurt themſelves by rearing into the manger; and getting them out again, has, at leaſt, been attended with difficulty, which this method prevents; for, by taking hold of his head, and giving him a gentle puſh back, the roller turns round, and he comes down with the greateſt eaſe. Let the rack be upright, ſo as to prevent the hay-ſeeds from falling on the horſe's head, and the ſtaves made round, but not too far aſunder, that he may not pull his hay into the manger, and by that means waſte it. If you intend a ſtable for race-horſes, there is no occaſion for a rack at all; the ſmall quantity of hay they eat at a time will be as well in the manger as a rack, nay better; for hay ſhould not be given till he has done with eating his corn, as is more fully mentioned in the method of training race-horſes. It is my opinion, that the higher the manger is for a young horſe, the better; as it will be a means of

lengthening

lengthening his fore-hand, and give him a more beautiful riſe in the neck. I have heard many people aſſert, that a colt taken into the ſtable ſhould be fed on the ground, to improve his fore-hand; a very miſtaken notion; for, although I allow it may add to the length of it, yet it will make him drop before the ſhoulder, and bring on what is commonly called an *ewe-neck*; which, tho' it is no diſadvantage to the ſtrength of the animal, it is by no means ſo handſome. On each ſide of the ſtall, cloſe to the manger, place a ſmall box, or, if you pleaſe, make it within each diviſion of the ſtall; let it be four inches wide, and about four feet high, like that which receives the weight of a ſaſh-window; at the top of the box, place a ſmall ſmooth running roller, and a ſmall lead weight, ſo that, whatever poſition the horſe ſtands or lies in, the reins of the collar will be always tight, and make it impoſſible for him to get his legs over it, which too often happens when the collar is too long, or the logs at the end of it too light; but,

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but, ſhould they be ſufficiently heavy, they reſt on the litter, and make the reins hang looſe; by which means the horſe, when riſing, may put his feet over it, and entangle himſelf, or throw him down again, and be attended with very bad conſequences, which can be fully prevented by this new invention, as the horſe has never more length of collar than he has occaſion for; and, therefore, it is impoſſible he ſhould hurt himſelf.

A Deſcription of the Stable.

G, the rack; C, the reins of the collar; E E, the two boxes on each ſide the ſtall; A, the roller above the manger; B, the manger; D, the drawer to receive the hay-ſeeds; F F, the ſides of the ſtall.

The annexed plate deſcribes the form of the ſtable; and it may not here be improper

proper to mention the method I would recommend of littering a horſe.

Let the ſtall be well littered with the beſt wheat-ſtraw, perfectly clean, and free from weeds; for a horſe ſometimes will eat his litter; and, as many bad weeds are gathered with the ſtraw, they might be the means of injuring a horſe's wind, or bring on other diſorders. I would avoid barley or oat-ſtraw as much as poſſible, as they are more ſubject to weeds than any other; but the beſt and cleaneſt of all is rye-ſtraw. Let the ſtalls be thoroughly cleaned out once in two days, and all the waſte dung taken from it, and ſupplied by freſh ſtraw; for, by neglecting to take away the dung, frequently it heats and rots, makes the horſe ſweat when lying down, and weakens him prodigiouſly.—Perhaps I may be thought unneceſſarily particular in theſe laſt directions; but, as it is the end of my ſmall labours to preſerve the health of horſes, I would not

not willingly miſs a ſingle remark that may be a means of promoting it.

Having offered rules to thoſe gentlemen who have an opportunity of breeding horſes, I think it my duty to aſſiſt thoſe of my readers who may not have the ſame opportunity, by giving directions for *buying horſes* for every purpoſe.

The Race-Horse.

I have known many gentlemen deceived by the appearance of horſes for the turf, and purchaſe them merely from ſeeing them run up a gallop exceedingly faſt; but, as many *crabs* (as the jockies term it) are frequently more ſpeedy for a mile or ſo than the firſt race-horſe in Britain; therefore the greateſt care is requiſite to prevent being impoſed upon. For my own part, I would not purchaſe a horſe, that I intended to run,

without being fully ſatisfied with regard to his ſize, and ſeeing him run with good horſes, and in a good place, or elſe run him on a trial with a horſe that had proved himſelf a good one; for many horſes will run faſt by themſelves, but, when faced by another, turn out a jade.

For thoſe who have not an opportunity of trying a horſe in the above manner, I ſhall give my opinion of the horſe moſt likely to race:—Be careful that the horſe or mare you make choice of be well-bred on both ſides; for it is the blood of a horſe that will bring him through the long day, when horſes not well-bred, though much ſpeedier, are obliged to give it up. Therefore the pedigree ought to be properly attended to, and that they run as little on the ſame line as poſſible; for the more the breed is croſſed the better. Many people are very particular in the colour of horſes, which I never would lay any material ſtreſs upon; for, agreeable to the old ſaying, 'a good 'horſe

'horſe can never be of a bad colour.' I would, therefore, be moſt particular with regard to his ſize, make, ſtrength, and blood; at the ſame time, if I did not know a horſe's goodneſs, from having ſeen him tried, I would make choice of a bay, brown, dark cheſnut, or the black, rather than the gray, roan, cheſnut, or dun, as they are generally ſoft and waſhy; and by all means avoid, as much as poſſible, white legs, as they are more weak, and liable to be let down, than thoſe that have no white about them. And, as race-horſes are more thought of for their ſpeed and goodneſs, than the marks of beauty they have about them, I never would pay the leaſt attention to ornament. Indeed, ſuch as a white fetlock, a ſtar in the forehead, ſnip on the noſe, &c. which I allow to add to the look of a horſe, but is abſolutely unneceſſary for a race-horſe, as it can by no means add to his ſpeed.

The

The Size and Make.

I can hardly pretend to lay down a general rule for the ſize of a race-horſe, as ſome ſmall horſes run, on certain grounds, better than larger ones; and I have found ſmall horſes at three, four, or five years old, generally run better than horſes of a ſuperior ſize. Thoſe large horſes run infinitely better when ſix years old, or aged, than at four or five, an inſtance of which I have given in p. 15; and the reaſon of this is, that a colt of fifteen and a half hands high, when four years old, can by no means be ſo ſtrong or complete as one of the ſame year, and only fourteen hands and an inch high; for they are generally very leggy, long, looſe made, and by no means ſo ſtrong as when they advance further in years, and their joints are completely ſet; then they have frequently ſome advantage over ſmaller horſes of the ſame year, and more particularly on

on a deep and heavy courſe, and when the weights they carry are equal. Horſes of fifteen hands, or fifteen hands and an inch high, I think the moſt likely to ſuit any ground, unleſs you intend him for give-and-take plates; in that caſe, fourteen hands, or under, if he be very ſtrong, is the moſt proper ſize.

Leſt I ſhould not be generally underſtood by the phraſe give-and-take, I ſhall here explain it.

The horſes, when entered for ſuch a plate, are allowed to cover five feet of ground, and then are meaſured by a ſtandard; and, according to the difference between the height of one horſe and another, ſeven pounds is allowed for every inch under or over fourteen hands, and ſeven pounds for the difference of every year under ſeven; and this is termed a give-and-take weight for age and inches.

Make

Make of a Race-Horſe.

His head ſhould be ſmall and flat, eyes large, ſprightly, black, and full of fire; his ears not too wide aſunder, but long and ſharp-pointed, and his playing them backwards and forwards frequently is a certain ſign of health; his noſtrils ſhould be wide, and always full and free from fleſh, which denotes that he breathes freely and unconfined, a great perfection in a race-horſe. His neck ſhould be lengthy, and not riſe ſo much on the top, as what they term a *ram-horſe-neck*; though, I acknowledge, ſuch a one is very beautiful, yet I would not make choice of a horſe on that account, as thoſe of that make are generally confined before the withers, and prevents them in running from getting their feet before them the diſtance they ought. The ſhoulders ſhould be thin and narrow, and point towards the back, then come gradually up to his withers, and not be ſeen to play much under

under the ſkin. I have mentioned that his ſhoulder-blade ſhould be thin; yet it ſhould not appear too weak for the hind quarters. His cheſt ſhould be very deep, back ſhort, and quarters ſtrait, or rather riſe than fall. Before the hip-bones, his haunches ſhould be wide and large; his thighs full and ſtrong, but not loaded with fleſh; his legs ſtand well under him, and his feet perfectly black, not too ſmall in proportion to his body, and rather incline to the flat than the high hoof, or aſs kind, as the latter are more eaſily beaten, and more liable to be foundered than hoofs of a different make. I differ widely from the ingenious Dr Braken with regard to the length of a horſe's back. He ſays, that he cannot think a horſe's back too long, if he is ſtrong in proportion; and that ſhort-backed horſes are by no means equal to thoſe of a longer make. That he is totally wrong, I ſhall endeavour to prove by the following circumſtances.

The

The famous horſe Cato, belonging to the late Duke of Cumberland, was one of the beſt running horſes in England of his years; he won in one ſeaſon ſix King's plates, beſides matches; and his back, from the point of his ſhoulder to the end of his hip, was but ſixteen inches long. For each of the King's plates he carried twelve ſtone, which, I think, was a certain proof of the ſtrength of his back. Now, as every horſe has the ſame number of ribs, thoſe of a long-backed horſe muſt certainly be at a greater diſtance from each other than thoſe of a ſhorter one, or elſe the diſtance from the laſt rib to the cuppling of the back too great, which is a certain ſign of weakneſs. I could advance many arguments on this ſubject; but, I believe, the two preceeding ones will be ſufficient. But, let a horſe be long or ſhort-backed, proper attention ſhould be paid to his manner of getting over the ground; for, if he does it with eaſe to himſelf, and throws his quarters in well, there will be no doubt of his making a race-horſe, with proper

proper care and attention being paid to his exercise and feeding. Some people who see a horse run, if he is beat, will say he is a bad one, not considering whether the horse has meat in him or not; for, let a horse run ever so fast, and his bottom be ever so good, he cannot run without having a sufficient time to be trained, and getting plenty of good hard meat in him; and, if he is a thorough bred horse, the longer you train him the better he will be, and come thro' his business properly. The method of feeding and exercise I have recommended in the beginning of this work.

The Method of Training Hunters.

The training of hunters should be widely different from that of a race-horse, particularly with regard to his exercise, and treatment in the stable. According to the common mode of proceeding, when a gentle-

man wants a horſe trained for a hunter's plate, his groom will begin by loading him with cloaths, and giving him three or four doſes of phyſic; as ſoon as that is done, he rattles him along with race-horſes, if there ſhould be any in the place where he trains him, and gives him ſweats regularly, as if he was a real racer, and had been conſtantly uſed as ſuch. By this treatment, the horſe is thrown out of his common way of exerciſe; and, by getting it in that ſevere manner, he is trained off his legs before he comes to ſtart. To avoid all which, I would treat him as formerly; let him ſtand in the ſame ſtable as uſual, with a ſingle ſheet and fillet-cloth on him; if he has been long without phyſic, you may give him a ſingle doſe, and a piſſing-ball or two, which will be intirely ſufficient; for too much phyſic weakens and relaxes the bowels, and he takes the longer time before he can be brought on in his exerciſe. While he is under medicine, you ſhould put a hood and more cloaths on him, to prevent his catching

ing cold; but, as ſoon as he is done with his medicine, no more than uſual. Take him out twice a day, if near the exerciſing ground, and now and then give him a ſmart bruſhing gallop; but let your gallops be rather long than ſpeedy, which will bring him on to his ſpeed, and not diſtreſs or weaken him. You may bring him on in ſpeed as the day of running approaches; but never let him go faſter than what he can do with eaſe to himſelf; as, having been bred in a different manner from the race-horſe, he cannot be expected to do the ſame work, and muſt, therefore, in his exerciſes, be treated with leſs ſeverity. I would adviſe but two ſweats before running. If the horſe be fleſhy, rather bring it off by a little more cloaths, a great deal of walking exerciſe, or long and gentle gallops, which will anſwer the purpoſe much better than ſweats. The method of treating him the night before, and the day of running, ſhould be the ſame as that uſed to a race-horſe.

The

The proper Kind of Horſe for the Field.

A hunter ſhould be completely broke, extremely temperate, neither fiery nor ſluggiſh, but take his leaps with care and willingneſs. But, as many horſes are ſpoiled by the ill-judged treatment of the rider, I beg to give him a piece of advice: That, if he does not ride with caution and temper, it is impoſſible the horſe ſhould give ſatisfaction, or bring him in at the end of the day. Therefore, I would advise every gentleman to pick the ground as much as poſſible, and the more leaps you avoid the better; but, as I have enlarged more fully on that head in p. 19, I ſhall now confine myſelf to the ſize, ſhape, and make of a hunter.

It is indeed impoſſible to lay down a preciſe rule for the ſize of a hunter. Every perſon muſt be left to chuſe that which is moſt agreeable, as he cannot be ignorant of what is moſt convenient. For inſtance, a gentleman

gentleman of light weight, has no occaſion for a ſtrong, high, or heavy horſe, that would tire himſelf with his own weight before the end of the day's ſport; and, on the other hand, a very heavy perſon would certainly avoid venturing on too ſmall or too light a horſe, that is not maſter of his weight; as, in that caſe, he would meet with innumerable difficulties, and make what he intended a pleaſure a downright fatigue.

After you have fixed upon the ſize of your horſe, his form and method of going ſhould be particularly attended to.

I think a horſe cannot go too cloſe before, provided he does not rub or cut himſelf; and the wider he goes behind, ſo as not to make him appear diſagreeable, the better. His head ſhould be ſmall and flat, ears not too wide, nor large, and their being picked, or foxed at the end, is a good ſign. His eyes ſhould be large and lively, his cheſt full,

full, ſhoulders ſtrong, but not heavy; his legs bonny and flat, and the leſs hair on them the better, as it is a ſign that he has ſome blood in him, which is very requiſite to qualify a horſe for the field. Obſerve that his legs ſtand well under him, that they are free from ſplinters, ring-bones, and ſpavins; his feet ſound; rather broad and flat, than round and high, and free and open at the heel. I would not make choice of a hunter with too fine a ſhoulder, provided he was not confined by it in his action; as, in hunting, it requires a horſe to be very ſtrong before, and well let down in the cheſt; his back ſhould be of a moderate length, and ſtrait, well coupled, and not too great an opening between the laſt rib and the hip-bone, which is a mark of weakneſs; his quarters ſhould come well into his back, and broad, which is a ſign he will ſpread himſelf well on the ground. White legs ſhould be avoided as much as poſſible, as they not only denote a ſoft wathy diſpoſition, but are more liable to ſwell, greaſe, or

ſcratches.

ſcratches. Before you purchaſe a hunter, ſee him tried after the hounds, if you have an opportunity; and obſerve him narrowly, that he goes with eaſe and temperance; that he clears his leaps well; that he pulls fair, and carries his head in a good form. You may then mount him yourſelf; and, if his manner and action pleaſe you, venture to buy him; and, by paying proper attention to keeping him properly, may depend on being carried well, and with ſafety.

The Road-Horſe.

As the moſt uſeful of all ſaddle-horſes are thoſe made uſe of for the road, thoſe of my readers who are obliged to travel in that way, ſhould be very particular with regard to the kind of horſe they make choice of for that purpoſe. They ſhould examine him very minutely, and ſee that he is perfectly ſound; wind and limbs free from every blemiſh,

miſh, and of a good and mild temper; by no means ſluggiſh, but of a chearful lively diſpoſition; that he moves nimbly over the ground, and does not kick his toes againſt every ſtone he may meet with on the road, but trip over them neatly, and meaſure his ground in ſuch a manner, as both to avoid them and holes, which are too frequently met with on turnpike roads. There are many horſes which go under the denomination of road-horſes, that are more fit for the plough or the cart; they get over the ground, it is true, but in ſuch a lazy heavy manner, as is not only troubleſome to themſelves, but moſt diſagreeable to the rider. As I have already ſaid, with regard to the hunter, the ſize of the horſe ſhould depend on the weight of the rider, ſo ſhould that of the road-horſe. For my part, I think a ſtout well made horſe, of fourteen hands and a half high, or fifteen hands, is able to carry any moderate weight on the road. I would adviſe every perſon, as much as poſſible, to avoid making choice of what the jockies call

call your ſpider-legged gentry, for that purpoſe; as, when they come to travel, a number of difficulties enſue; ſuch as cutting, being let down in the back-ſinews, and many other diſagreeable circumſtances, too tedious to mention, but which I have myſelf experienced, and am therefore deſirous my readers ſhould prevent themſelves from falling into the ſame difficulties. I have known many high-bred horſes perform very well on the road, though, in general, they are by no means fit for it. For ſeveral years, I rode a mare of high blood, which, at four and five years old, made a tolerable good figure on the turf, and afterwards was uſed as a hunter, and for the road; I even rode her at 26 years of age, and never met with a horſe that could trot equal to her: I beat a horſe with her, that, for a conſiderable bet, had trotted ſixteen miles within the hour; and, what is very extraordinary, I have frequently heard the owner of her ſay, (who was the gentleman that bred her), ſhe never had a doſe of phyſic in her life; which, I

think, is a proof, that, with proper care, a horſe may laſt a great number of years longer than they generally do by tampering them with drugs, which, in my opinion, rather hurt the conſtitution than add to the health of a horſe, unleſs when there is an abſolute neceſſity for it, and then as little as poſſible, and given with judgment and caution. As there are few horſes to be found like the one I have given the above deſcription of, I ſhall deliver my opinion of what I think the moſt proper horſe for the road.

I would, as much as poſſible, avoid buying a horſe out of the hands of a dealer, unleſs I knew him, from experience, to be an honeſt man; a thing very rare to be met with; for, by puffing them up with graſs, or loading them with fleſh, they frequently hide many faults; and, by priming them, as they term it, which is done by putting ginger up their fundaments, make them carry an excellent tail, when, perhaps, at another time, they carry it cloſe in to their quarters: But

But that is not very material; for, if I liked a horſe's ſhape and action, I would pay no regard to his tail, whether he carried it high or low; but, at the ſame time, I muſt acknowledge, it adds much to the appearance of a horſe to carry his tail in a good place. My principal objection againſt buying from dealers is, their method of treating them: In the firſt place, their riders are ſo very expert in ſhowing a horſe, that it requires a very nice judge to find out his faults; for they have conſtantly their heels at his ſides, and force him to ſet down his feet, though frequently very unable; and, as I have known many dealers practiſe their horſes two or three times a day in their ride, where they crack their whips, and frighten the poor animal to death, the moment he comes to be ſhown, he appears gay and ſprightly, more from fear than inclination to be ſo. But, in this ſituation, I would adviſe every perſon to ride him a few miles himſelf without ſpurs, laying the rein of the bridle careleſsly on his neck, which will

not

not only be a means of diſcovering his temper, whether he be hot, temperate, or ſluggiſh, but will certainly find out if he be guilty of that vile practice of ſtumbling, or knocking his feet againſt every ſtone he comes to on the road. If you find him perfectly temperate, and free from every fault on his walk, trot him gently on till you find his motion that way; if you come to the deſcent of a hill, trot him down it ſmartly. If he does that completely, you need not fear him on any ground; for I think it one of the greateſt perfections in a road-horſe to trot well down hill; and it is a certain ſign he is ſound; for, if there is any fault in the feet or ſhoulders of a horſe, he will certainly ſhow it when either trotted or gallopped down hill. After you have made this experiment, if his actions and make pleaſe you, you may purchaſe him; but firſt obſerve that he is chearful and lively, and that he does his buſineſs with eaſe and pleature to himſelf, and that he by no means dwells on the ground, but trips nimbly

along

along it, avoiding every ſtone or hole that may come in his way, by meaſuring his ſteps properly, and making them ſhorter or longer, as occaſion ſerves, ſo as to avoid them; as there are many road-horſes, or, at leaſt, are called ſo, that go one conſtant ſteady ſtep, without taking care to avoid any thing that may come in the way; and, by that means, not only fatigue themſelves, but cannot give pleaſure to the rider, I would wiſh every one to avoid thoſe break-ſtone gentry; for there certainly cannot be ſo great a pleaſure in travelling, as to be carried with eaſe and ſafety: And if my readers can procure a horſe to their mind, ſuch as I have recommended, and treating him on the road in the manner I have laid down in p. 38, I am certain, the numberleſs difficulties that ariſe on the road will be totally at an end; and, excepting unforeſeen accidents, both rider and horſe will execute their journey with eaſe and ſafety.

The

The Padd for Ladies.

As I have a particular regard for the ladies, I would with to have them carried genteelly, and with ſafety. The beſt kind of horſes for them, are thoſe bred from the Highland ſhaltie, or Welſh Galloway, got by a middle-ſized horſe of blood, that, as the mare gives hardineſs, the horſe adds beauty and goodneſs; which, when properly taught to amble, or canter, not only diſplay a good form, but do the work completely.

The Cart-Horſe.

As moſt farmers are ſufficiently acquainted with the kinds of horſes that will beſt anſwer their purpoſe, it would be abſurd in me to lay down a rule to them, any further than wiſhing them to pay attention to the make and ſize, and, more particularly, that he

he be perfectly ſound; for, without that, a perſon had better have no horſe at all, than one who cannot anſwer his purpoſe. The only advice I can give with regard to the work-horſe is, to chuſe ſuch a one as I have mentioned in my advice to farmers for the breeding of horſes for the cart. See p. 27.

Having now, in as particular a manner as poſſibly I could, laid down every rule to prevent the diſorders that are incident to horſes, I ſhall now endeavour to preſcribe a few ſimple medicines, which I have experienced to be moſt effectual and ſafe, with ſome obſervations on the different diſorders of this uſeful creature; and ſhall begin with one, as diſagreeable as it is impoſſible to cure, which is, a broken wind.

Though I am certain it is impoſſible effectually to cure that diſorder, yet I have known many horſes in that ſituation, with proper care, do a great deal of buſineſs. I rode ſuch a horſe myſelf, more than a year, and never

never was better carried in my life; and the only method I made uſe of was, to give him his hay a little wet, and not a great deal of it, and not too much water when on the road, and every morning a tea-cup full of oil in his corn, which cauſed him to breathe more freely, and perform his journey with eaſe to himſelf; and, whenever I had an opportunity, turned him to graſs, which is the beſt medicine in the world for that diſagreeable diſorder. The cauſe of a broken wind is as follows:—It is either occaſioned by a horſe being rode too hard immediately after having been taken out of the ſtable, with his belly full, as horſes that are moſt liable to this diſorder are thoſe that feed the moſt freely; therefore, every perſon ſhould examine his horſe before he mounts him, whether he be full or empty; as, in the firſt place, he cannot expect to be carried well; and, in the next, endanger the horſe's health, if he rides too faſt in that ſituation, as it is the firſt thing that will bring on a broken wind; or by letting the

horſe

horſe take his fill of water, and riding him hard afterwards, ſeldom fails of having the ſame effect.

The Sign of a Broken Wind.

A broken wind is owing to a difficulty of breathing, from a diſorder of the lungs; and may be known by a violent heaving of the flank, or rattling in the throat. Many people have miſtaken a purſiveneſs frequently for a broken wind; but the difference is eaſily to be known: For inſtance, I have known many people, who pretend to great knowledge in horſe-fleſh, in that caſe totally wrong. I have ſeen a horſe taken out of the ſtable when he is loaded with meat, and has not got proper or regular exerciſe; they trot or gallop him, or both, ſeverely, which cauſes him to blow and heave in the flank; they immediately conclude, that he is broken or cracked winded, without conſidering

the habit of body the horſe is in, or that the ſevere blowing after his gallop proceeds from the fullneſs of his belly, or long want of exerciſe. But, indeed, to judges, that would not be thought of; as the method of breathing is widely different when brought on in that way, than when occaſioned by the diſorder of the lungs, and the motion of the flank; it is by no means like that of a horſe who is only purſive; as, when that is the caſe, he will breathe hard at the noſtrils, and heave quickly at the flank; and, indeed, ſometimes I have known them cough; but then the tone is ſo widely different from that of a broken winded horſe, that it is impoſſible for any perſon to be deceived, as the firſt is ſmart and ſhort, and the ſecond clear; whereas the latter is a heavy deep tone, far-fetched, and repeated, perhaps, eight or ten times ſucceſſively, and the heaving in the flank will continue, but, in the purſive horſe, will go off by degrees, and his breathing become eaſy and free. But, if any ſhould be ſo unlucky as to meet with a horſe in that ſituation,

ſituation, I would not adviſe them to throw him away on that account; as, with proper care being taken, in the manner I have before mentioned, and turning him to graſs as often as poſſible, or keeping his hay or corn a little wet, ſo as not to make it diſagreeable to him, it will make him do his work with more eaſe, and, with moderate uſage, laſt for ſome years.

The Greaſe, or Scratches.

Exerciſe, clean feeding, and proper care with regard to dreſſing, and rubbing the legs and heels perfectly dry and clean after exerciſe, is the only thing to prevent thoſe diſagreeable diſorders; and, if that is not properly attended to, is as certain to be the cauſe of it. Take care that, immediately after exerciſe, hunting, or the road, that the horſe be made perfectly clean, dry, and well littered; that his feet are well ſtuffed with

cows-

cows-dung, and his hoofs greated with hogs-lard, or neats-feet oil, and a little rubbed into the fetlock joint, which will prevent any crack, fcr.., or fcab, from gathering there, which are the only things, and want of moderate exercife, that bring on the greafe. If a horfe's legs are apt to fwell, give him plenty of walking exercife, and a roomy ftall, that he may be able to ftretch out his legs, and lie at his eafe, which will be a great relief to him; but, if confined in his ftall, will rather add to, than diminifh the diforder; but, in that cafe, the moft effectual method is, to turn him to grafs. If you have not that opportunity, and the diforder fhould increafe, and bring on a running, the moft fimple and eafy method of cure is as follows.

Make a poultice of boiled turnips, with a little hogs-lard in it, and apply it to the part, as warm as the horfe can bear it; give him gentle walking exercife, and a few piffing-balls, which, in a fhort time, will intirely

tirely effect the cure. But, if that ſhould not be the caſe, I ſhall hereafter give a more effectual receipt for that purpoſe.

A Strain in the Back-ſinews.

This is a moſt diſagreeable diſorder, and frequently, if deſperate, takes a long time to complete the cure. White-legged horſes are moſt liable to it, as they are ſeldom ſo ſtrong as others, and their parts are ſooner affected. It is generally brought on by ſevere exerciſe, ſuch as running a hard heat, or heats, and is more frequently the caſe on hard ground than ſoft. A hard day's hunting, or frequently in a leap, where the horſe ſtands too high above it, and the weight of his body comes ſuddenly, and too great on his four legs. The road horſe is ſometimes ſubject to it, from being too hard trotted or gallopped on a hard and ſtonny road; I have even known ſome horſes miſ-

fortunate

fortunate enough to meet with it from ſtepping on a rolling ſtone when walking. I would caution every body to avoid ſtones, and pick the road as much as poſſible, both for the ſake of themſelves and the animal.

The Cure.

Very ſoon after you perceive him lame, if a ſtrain ſhould be the cauſe, it will ſoon ſhew itſelf, by ſwelling between the fetlock-joint and the knee. If it ſhould happen on the turf, hunting-field, or road, tie your handkerchief or garter tight about the part, but not ſo tight as to cauſe it to ſwell more; let him walk as gently as poſſible till he comes to the ſtable; then bathe the part with the beſt ſtrong old verjuice you can get, made as hot as the horſe can bear it; dip a piece of flannel into it, wrap it round the leg, and roll it up with liſt as tight as poſſible; but, as I ſaid before, not ſo as to make

it

it ſwell. This ſhould be applied twice or thrice a day: If you do not find that ſufficient, it would be neceſſary to apply a little upodeldoch, or ſpirit of wine and camphor, in the ſame manner, giving the horſe as much eaſe as poſſible; if the ſtrain ſhould be ſlight, it will in a ſhort time complete the cure; but, if ſevere, it would be neceſſary to lay on a cold charge, and turn him to graſs, till time brings the part to its proper ſtrength. But ſometimes firing is abſolutely neceſſary, and proves moſt effectual.

Of Colds.

As colds, both in men as well as horſes, are the beginning of all, or moſt diſorders; therefore the utmoſt care ſhould be taken to guard againſt it, and take the firſt opportunity to nip it in the bud. A cold is eaſily known when new taken, by the ſtarting of the hair, and dullneſs of the eyes, before he begins

begins to cough, and may, with proper care, be eaſily removed. And the firſt thing to be made uſe of is, to take a little blood from his neck, and tie his head up with the rack-rein for an hour, to prevent him from eating, and by that means cauſe his neck to bleed afreſh; you may then give him a maſh of ſcalded bran, with a little nitre in it, and be ſure the water be boiled before you put it on the bran, and cover it over with a cloth, and give it to the horſe to eat, as hot as he can bear it. Be careful that he be kept warm, his hay well drawn, and made free from duſt, and ſprinkled with a little ſoft freſh water. If the diſorder ſhould increaſe, and turn to a cough, and running at the noſe, take care his manger be always clean before you feed him, as the matter from his note will be diſagreeable to him, and make him loath his meat. The moſt effectual way to prevent it is, to cram his manger full of clean wheat-ſtraw immediately after he has done with his feed or maſh, which will prevent the matter from

dropping

dropping into the manger, and by that means keep it perfectly clean. I would advise, when the diſorder is confined to the head, to make uſe of the following method, to bring it out by running at the noſe:—Give him frequently a maſh of boiling bran, poured into the manger as hot as poſſible; tie up the horſe's head to the rack, ſo as only to allow him to reach within two inches of it, and not to eat it, as the ſteam of the maſh will cauſe the matter to come down. You may let him ſtand in that ſituation till he has got all the benefit of the ſteam; then give him one to eat with nitre, as before mentioned. This ſhould be repeated frequently. If it does not effect the cure, it will be proper to take more blood from him. The firſt time you bleed, it would be neceſſary to take two or three quarts, if the horſe can bear it, which will depend on the habit of body he is in, and not ſo much the next time; as the firſt bleeding ſhould have a greater effect on the diſorder than the laſt.

Left this book ſhould fall into the hands of Scots grooms or farriers, who do not know the difference between the Scots and Engliſh meaſure, for the ſafety of the horſe, I think it my duty to inform them of the difference.

A quart, in Scotland, is four times the quantity of that ſo called in England, and ſo in proportion. For inſtance, a Scots pint is two Engliſh quarts; a chopin, one Engliſh quart; a mutchkin, a pint Engliſh; half a mutchkin, half a pint. I mention this, leſt, by the miſtake of the meaſure, a horſe may be ſo drained of blood, as effectually to cure him indeed—by bleeding him to death.

There are many people fond of giving drinks in colds, which I would avoid as much as poſſible; for, I think, if a horſe is clean fed, and warm cloathed, particularly about the head and throat, with moderate exerciſe, and proper attention being paid to

treating

treating him, as before mentioned, I have not the leaſt doubt but the horſe will be reſtored to perfect health. If, at the time the horſe takes the cold, he ſhould be in a bad habit of body, or foul fed, it would be neceſſary to give him a gentle purge, which I have experienced to be extremely good in that caſe; but if, after the cold has intirely left him, and the horſe turns gay, chearful, and ſprightly, his eyes clear and lively, and his coat looks fine, it is a certain ſign of health, and purging will be abſolutely unneceſſary; but if theſe marks of health ſhould not appear, the following purge will be ſerviceable and proper: If the firſt does not prove effectual, it may be repeated in eight or ten days; and, as I am an enemy to phyſic, unleſs abſolutely neceſſary, as it is very apt to weaken the parts, and be a conſiderable time before the horſe be able to perform his buſineſs as uſual, and particularly if what he is to perform be ſevere.

The

The Purge.

Take of fuc[illegible] ale, ten drachms; jalap and fait of tartar, each two drachms; grated ginger, one drachm; oil of cloves, thirty drops. Make them into a ball with fyrup of buckthorn.

Before you adminiſter phyſic, (which ſhould be early in the morning) let his rack and manger be made perfectly clean, and free from hay; tie his head up to the rack, and let him ſtand for an hour; then give him the purge, which may be in a ball, or mixed in warm ale, and given in a drenching horn, as you find it moſt convenient; then tie his head up again, and let him ſtand for ſome time; give him as much warm water as he can drink, with ſome oat meal mixed in it; keep him well cloathed, and walk him out frequently, and as frequently try him with warm water; as horſes,

ſes, in phyſic, ſeldom drink ſo much water as they ſhould, yet every effort ſhould be made uſe of to make him drink as much as poſſible; though I muſt acknowledge the old ſaying, 'one man can lead a horſe to wa-'ter, but ten cannot make him drink.' I had almoſt forgot to mention, that, during the continuance of the cold, the horſe ſhould always get warm water, with meal in it. Among the number of medicines made uſe of by different people, and indeed I have tried ſeveral myſelf, I never knew any ſo effectual as what I have already mentioned; and the following I have found preferable to any, the moſt ſafe and conducive to health, which is, the ingenious Dr Braken's much eſteemed cordial ball: The compoſition is as follows.

The

The Cordial Ball.

'Take aniſeed and carraway ſeed, finely 'powdered, of each one ounce; greater car-'damum ſeed, half an ounce; flower of 'brimſtone, two ounces; turmeric, in fine 'powder, one ounce; ſaffron, two drachms; 'ſugar-candy, four ounces; Spaniſh juice, 'diſſolved in hyſſop water, two ounces; 'oil of aniſeed, half an ounce; liquorice 'powder, one ounce and a half; with as 'much wheat-flour as will make it into a 'ball: Beat them well in a mortar, and tie 'it up in a bladder for uſe.'

This ball is a moſt delicious cordial, and extremely proper, not only for horſes juſt out of a cold, but for every horſe that is to undergo ſevere exerciſe; and, particularly, a hunter ſhould get one about the ſize of a ſmall egg every day before he goes to the field, and a road-horſe before you mount in the morning, which will make them do their

their work more chearfully. There is not the leaſt trouble in making a horſe take this ball, as moſt horſes are ſo fond of it as to eat it out of your hand; and, by conſtant uſe of this ball, I have known many horſes ſo fond of the perſon who gives it, as to follow him where he pleaſed. I would adviſe every groom to make uſe of this ball for horſes in training, to be given every morning before going out to exerciſe, which will not only give him ſpirits, but add greatly to his wind.

Of Glanders.

Horſes in colds, who have a violent running at the noſe, are ſometimes, by people who have not a thorough knowledge of the diſorder, judged to have the glanders; but the matter is widely different; for, when the running is occaſioned by a cold only, it is

is generally of a white or yellowish colour, and, in that of the glanders, of various colours, such as yellow, green, or black, according to the length of time the horse has been troubled with the disorder. In the beginning, it is generally white; but may be easily known from that of a cold, as, in a short time, it will change to the colour before mentioned. This is one of the most disagreeable disorders that attend this useful creature, and few or none more difficult to cure. The first thing necessary is, to take blood from him; and he should be kept extremely warm and well clothed; his hay and corn perfectly clean; it would be proper the corn should be beat well, so as to take off the chaff; it would not be improper to break them in a mill, as the horse will eat them with more ease, and they are not so liable to obstruct the passage of the throat. Mashes of scalded bran should be given plentifully, and frequently warm water, with a little oat meal in it, given to drink. As this disorder frequently arises from poverty and

and a low habit of body, therefore the more nouriſhment he receives, it will be a means of forwarding the cure.

The following receipt, which I got from that celebrated groom and rider, Joſiah Marſhall, I have given in the above caſe with ſucceſs, and would ſtrongly recommend it as the beſt and moſt effectual of any I ever knew.

Receipt for the Glanders.

Take a pound of balſam of capaiba, incorporate it well with the yolks of twenty freſh eggs; add to it a pound of treacle, and mix it well in ſix quarts of good ſtale beer, and keep it well corked up for uſe.

As many abler hands than mine have wrote very largely on this diſorder, and

even allow it to be incurable, yet I have known the above receipt prove effectual; and, in some cases, after having treated the horse in the same manner as when in a severe cold, the following injection, recommended by Dr Braken, completed the cure.

Take of allum, and white vitriol powdered, of each four ounces; calcine them in a crucible; when cold, powder the calx, and mix it with a gallon of lime water, and a quart of vinegar; decant the clear for use.

In this disorder, Mr Bartlet recommends a decoction of guaiacum chips to be given every day, a quart or three pints throughout the cure; and, when the matter decreases, purge at proper intervals, ten days between each purge; as, from the nature of the disorder, the horse consequently will be in a low habit of body, and cannot be able to bear severe purging. Mr Bartlet also recommends putting a rowel into the horse's chest, in order (to use his own phrase) to divert

divert the fluids from their old channel: This I knew once tried with ſucceſs; but, in my humble opinion, if the diſorder is got to a high degree, the axe, properly applied, will prove moſt effectual, and ſave a great deal of expence and trouble.

Of the Gripes.

This is a diſorder, in general, but little underſtood by thoſe grooms or farriers you frequently meet with on the road; and horſes are moſt liable to it when travelling, from ſevere heats and ſudden colds, or drinking cold water when too warm. I have particularly cautioned my readers againſt this vile practice in my directions to travellers. See p. 44. There are three different kinds of cholics, and all of them have different ſymptoms, and go under the following different names: The windy, the bilious, and the dry gripes; though they all differ widely from

from each other, yet you will hardly meet with a country farrier or groom that knows the ſymptoms peculiar to the one or the other, which I ſhall endeavour to deſcribe.

In the windy cholic, the horſe will frequently lie down, and inſtantly riſe again, ſtrike his belly with his hind feet, and ſtamp ſeverely with his fore ones, and refuſes his meat; ſometimes he will ſtretch out his legs as if dead, and turn up the white of his eyes; and, when the diſorder is violent, he has convulſive twitchings; his feet and ears are alternately hot and cold, with ſudden ſweats over his whole body; and he gets inſtantly into a cold damp, rolls about in his ſtall, and frequently turns on his back. The bilious, or inflammatory cholic, has generally moſt of the above ſymptoms, and attended with a fever, dryneſs of the mouth, panting, and heaving of the flank; he will alſo throw out a little looſe dung, which, when it appears blackiſh, or of a reddiſh colour, denotes an approaching mortification.

The

The dry gripes is occaſioned from coſtiveneſs, and may be eaſily known by the conſtant and quick motion of his tail, (like a horſe that has had a ſevere gallop), the high colour of his urine, great reſtleſſneſs in his ſtall, and fruitleſs attempts to dung.

Cure for the Windy Cholic.

Ball for the ſtrangury: Take juniper-berries pounded, and Venice turpentine, of each half an ounce; ſaltpetre, one ounce; oil of juniper, one drachm; ſalt of tartar, two drachms. Make it into a ball; it may be given whole, and waſhed down with a horn or two of warm ale.

If this does not cauſe the horſe to ſtale plentifully, or to break wind in an hour or two, repeat the doſe again, adding to it a drachm of ſalt of amber, and repeat it a third

third time, if the too former have not the desired effect. It would be necessary the horse be well cloathed, and walked or trotted gently, but by no means so as to fatigue him.

It would be necessary to apply the following clyster between the balls, or alone, and repeated as often as occasion shall require.

Take anise, coriander, and fenel seeds, of each an ounce; camomile-flowers, two handfulls; half an ounce of long pepper; boil them in three quarts of water into two; Daffy's elixir, or gin, half a pint; oil of amber, half an ounce; and oil of camomile, eight ounces.

The

The Cure for the Bilious Cholic.

In the firſt ſtage of this diſorder, it will be neceſſary to give the following clyſter: Take camomile-flowers and mallow leaves, of each two handfuls; pellitory of the wall, three handfuls; flowers of elder, two handfuls; juniper-berries bruiſed, four ounces; boil theſe in four quarts of rain-water into three, then ſtrain and preſs out the liquor, and add two ounces of lenitive electuary, and give the horſe the whole three quarts by way of clyſter at once.

As the above clyſter is taken from Dr Bracken, and I have found it an exceeding good one, I ſhall, in juſtice to the Doctor, give his own reaſons why clyſters ſhould be given in large quantities: He ſays, 'the firſt gut-colon in a horſe is about a yard and a half in length, the ſecond about a yard, and the third, or that part which joins to the rectum,

rectum, or arſe-gut, near ſix yards in length; ſo that the colon of a horſe, fourteen hands high, may be ſaid to be nearly eight yards and a half long; and from it, along the rectum or ſtraight gut, to the anus, where the excrements are diſcharged, is not above half a yard; ſo that it is plain, clyſters operate moſtly in the colon; though I muſt ſay, they are given in too ſmall quantities. For what ſignifies two quarts of liquor in a gut nine yards long, and four or five inches diameter, in a natural ſtate? But, in the cholic, it is ſo diſtended with flatulences, that, in its diameter, it exceeds ſeven or eight inches, as I have frequently obſerved in thoſe dying of that diſtemper, or, which is much the ſame, the griping of the guts.'

I think there cannot be a more convincing proof than the Doctor has given of the abſurdity of giving clyſters in ſmall quantities; for, if a ſufficient quantity is not given to fill the gut, it is totally impoſſible for it to have the deſired effect. After the above clyſter

clyſter has been properly applied, and the ſtraight gut cleanſed, it would be neceſſary to give the following gentle purge.

Take of liquorice root, one ounce; ſenna, two ounces; ſalt of tartar, two drachms; freſh juniper-berries, and carraway ſeeds bruiſed, each one ounce; boil them in a quart of water till you diminiſh it into a pint; ſtrain it through a linen cloth; and two ounces of lenitive electuary; and good Canary, half a pint; make it milk warm, and give it to the horſe in the morning, and keep him well clothed and warm for ſome days. After the diſorder is abated, and the horſe appears tolerably well, it would be proper to give him the following mixture; as a lax or ſcouring may cauſe the horſe to void moſt of the mucus, or ſlippery matter, which ſhould defend the inner membrane of the guts from the eroſion and acrimony of the juices.

The Mixture.

Take a quart of warm beer, and diſſolve one of the cordial balls (p. 94.) in it, and an ounce of Venice treacle; and, if the horſe ſcour ſeverely, one hundred drops of liquid laudanum, and the like number of tincture of caſtor, and mix them well together before you give it to the horſe. As I have proved the above medicine in the cholic to be effectual, I think I can with ſafety recommend it to the public; and, as many horſes have a ſcouring after this diſorder, I ſhould be remiſs in not preſcribing ſomething to remove it.

Take three ounces of the cordial ball, (p. 94) and a pint of red port made warm, and give it to the horſe in a horn, which may be repeated till the purging abates. I would have my readers obſerve, that there is a very great difference between the excrements when

when occaſioned by the purge given, and what remains after the proper time it ſhould ceaſe: It is a thin diſcharge of watery, phlegmy, frothy, fat, and black matter, by the fundament, and ſometimes no excrements at all, which the above drink will cure. Dr Bracken has preſcribed the following cordial for the ſame; but, I am very certain, the above will prove as effectual, and be attended with much leſs expence.

The Cordial Drench.

Take aniſeeds, carraway ſeeds, and cardamums, of each an ounce; juniper-berries, four ounces; bruiſe the ſeeds and berries, and put them into five pints of mint-water, and add to them two ounces of Venice treacle, or mithridate; boil them to the conſumption of the one half; then ſtrain out the liquor, and add to it half a pint of good

good red port wine, and half a pound of treacle.

An Aſtringent Purge for Scouring.

Take red-roſe leaves, two ounces; yellow ſanders, three ounces; tormentil-root, four ounces; bruiſe and boil theſe into two quarts of water, till reduced to one; then ſtrain it off, and add toaſted rhubarb, finely powdered, half an ounce; ſyrup of dried roſes, three ounces; mix them well together, and give it to the horſe in the morning milk warm.

It will be neceſſary to obſerve, that a horſe, in ſcouring, ſhould not have the ſame quantity of water as uſual; for it will rather add to than abate the ſcouring. In all his water, I would adviſe gum Arabic to be diſſolved in it. The preparation is as follows:

Take

Take an ounce of gum Arabic, bruiſe it, and boil it in a quart of water till it is diſſolved; then mix it with half a pail-full of cold water and oat-meal; and let the horſe drink this ſort of water for ſome time—for a week at leaſt.

The Aſtringent Mixture.

Take Armenian bole, an ounce and a half; of roch-alum, one ounce; beat them into a powder; put them into a quart of milk, and ſtir it over the fire till it turns to a curd, then give it to the horſe.

Another Mixture.

Take contrayerva root, and Virginia ſnake-root, of each an ounce; powder of oyſter-ſhells, three ounces; cinnamon and tormen-

til-

til-root, of each half an ounce; saffron and cochineal, of each two drachms; powder them all well together, and divide them equally into six papers, and give the horse two every day in warm red port wine, keeping him well clothed, and his head tied up to the rack, or take all his meat taken from him for, at least, two hours after the drink.

Dr Bracken's excellent Restringent, or binding Syrup.

Take oak-bark, one pound; pomgranate shells, roots of tormentil and bistort, of each two ounces; boil them in a gallon of spring water into three pints; strain the liquor, and let it settle till fine; then pour it off as clear as you can. To the liquor, add juice of sloes and barberries, of each a pint, which boil and evaporate to one pint; then add

add of fine ſugar two pounds, and boil it to the conſiſtence of a ſyrup.

The Yellows, or Jaundice in Horſes.

The ſymptoms of this diſorder are, a ſluggiſhneſs, or dullneſs of the whole body; it is with difficulty the horſe can breathe; his heart beats ſlower than when he is in health; he loſes his appetite, and becomes poor and unfit for buſineſs; and the inſide of his eye-lids and his eyes appear yellow, and his urine the colour of ſaffron. The jaundice ſometimes follow the cholic; in which caſe it will be proper to give the following purge:

Take Engliſh ſaffron in powder, two drachms; Turkey rhubarb in powder, one ounce and a half; ſuccotrine aloes, one ounce; ſyrup of buckthorn, as much as is ſufficient

ſufficient to make it into a ball; give it to the horſe in the morning, and waſh it down with a pint of warm ale.

The following infuſion will be neceſſary to be given after the purge:

Take of turmeric, three ounces; ſaffron and ſoap of tartar, of each half an ounce; ſalt of tartar, two ounces; filings of iron, three ounces; mix theſe in a gallon of ale; let them infuſe for three or four days, giving it a ſhake frequently. Give the horſe a pint of it every morning milk warm: You need not ſtrain it off all together, but as you want it.

Of Worms, Bots, and Trunchcons.

Many people imagine, that worms are bred in the maw, or ſtomach of the horſe, though there is great reaſon to believe, that no

no worms are bred there; and I am fully convinced it is so, by Mr Gibson's observations on the stomach. He says, 'it is harder for a mouse to live and subsist under a millstone, while it is grinding corn, than for worms to live and subsist in the stomach of any animal, considering the muscular action of this so sensible a part of the body; which, according to the best accounts we have of the faculty of digestion, would certainly grind them to pieces very soon. Therefore, when worms are cast up by the mouth and nostrils of human bodies, it may be supposed, they could not abide the heat and irritating quality of the stomach; so that they quit that habitation, and make the best of their way, either upwards or downwards. And I cannot say I ever took notice of worms vomited up which were lively; but either dead, or very near it: Yet they are very often in the duodenum, or first of the small guts, next the stomach; for, as soon as the creature dies, they rise up thither; where, being found upon opening the car-

caſe, it is erroneouſly concluded, that they are bred there.'

Bots are a ſmall, ſhort, and thick kind of worm, with great heads, and ſmall tails; they are moſtly in the gut next the fundament, where they keep a continual troubleſome motion, and cauſe prodigious itching; the ſign of them is the horſe frequently rubbing himſelf againſt the ſtall, and diſcharging, from his fundament, in ſmall quantities, a yellowiſh kind of ſlime or matter.

Truncheons are ſhort thick worms, much larger than the bots, and have black and hard heads. There are a number of cures for the bots; but I never found any thing ſo effectual as what perhaps may, with ſome people, be laughed at for its ſingularity; but, as I have repeatedly proved the good qualities of it, it would be injuſtice in me to omit it: What I mean is, the green ſavin tree, finely chopped, and as much as will lie on a half-crown piece given

ven frequently in the horſe's corn, which will, in a ſhort time, rid the poor animal of ſuch diſagreeable tenants. The following purge I have likwiſe tried with great ſucceſs.

Take ſuccotrine aloes, ten drachms; jalap, one drachm; birthwort and myrrh, powdered, of each two drachms; oil of ſavin and amber, of each one drachm; and ſyrup of buckthorn, enough to form it into a ball.

Another.

Take of aloes, one ounce; diapente, one ounce and a half; calomel prepared, two drachms; cream of tartar, one ounce; make them into the conſiſtence of a ball with buckthorn and liquorice powder. It will not be improper, preceeding the above purge, to give the horſe a quantity of ale-wort for two or three mornings before; as the wort

is

is ſo pleaſant to the worms, that they fill themſelves ſo immoderately with it, that the purge comes upon them when they are by no means able to keep their hold among the guts, and by that means are carried away with the excrements. Dr Bracken recommends Æthiop's mineral for killing of worms. Therefore, in eight or ten days after the purge, I would recommend the Doctor's preparation of Æthiop's mineral, as follows:

Take of Bracken's cordial ball, (p. 94.) two ounces; four ounces of Æthiop's mineral; two ounces of coralline; and as much ſyrup of ſaffron as will make the ball of a due conſiſtence, which may be about two ounces; beat them all well together, and give the horſe about the bignets of a pigeon's egg every morning and evening before his exerciſe, for a fortnight.

Of

Of Hide-bound Horſes.

This diſorder is eaſily known, by the horſe being drawn up, or contracted in the belly, and his ſkin clapping ſo cloſe to his ſides, that it is with difficulty you can move it, and generally cauſes a dryneſs and ſtaring of the hair; his dung is dry, hard, and of a black colour, and ſends forth a moſt offenſive ſmell. The cauſe of this diſorder proceeds from bad keeping, particularly bad mouldy hay, and want of corn, with more work than the horſe, with ſuch feeding, is able to endure. I cannot properly call this a diſeaſe; becauſe it is brought on by neglect, or the owner not having ſpirit enough to give the poor animal proper keeping to prevent it, or to enable him to perform his buſineſs. In that caſe, I moſt ſincerely wiſh that thoſe people were for ever obliged to walk on foot, that they might know the value of a good horſe too late.

The

The moſt effectual cure for a horſe in this ſtate is, to give him plenty of ſoft meat, ſuch as ſcalded bran, boiled barley, &c.; and take care that his hay be good, and free from duſt; let his exerciſe be gentle and moderate, as it is impoſſible for a horſe to undergo ſevere exerciſe or travelling with that kind of keeping. After you have treated him in this manner for ſome time, you will find his ſkin begin to looſe from his ſides, and he will gather fleſh; you may then give him good oats, not forgetting to give him a maſh of ſcalded bran three times a week for ſome time, to keep his body open; for too ſudden a change would be dangerous. When you find his hide intirely unbound, and his coat lie ſmooth, you may then put him to work; and, by giving him clean wholeſome food, and plenty of it, there will be no fear of a relapſe. I have known the following purge given in a ſevere caſe of this kind.

Take

Take Engliſh ſaffron in powder, two drachms; Turkey rhubarb, one ounce and a half; ſuccotrine aloes, one ounce; ſyrup of buckthorn, as much as is ſufficient to make it into a ball; give it to the horſe in the morning, and waſh it down with warm ale.

The following infuſion will be neceſſary to be given after the purge.

Take turmeric, three ounces; ſaffron, and ſoap of tartar, of each half an ounce; ſalt of tartar, two ounces; filings of iron, three ounces; mix theſe in a gallon of ale; let them infuſe for three or four days, ſhaking it frequently; give the horſe a pint of it every morning milk warm, and ſtrain it off as you uſe it.

The above purge and infuſion I have known frequently applied; but, in my humble opinion, there is little or no occaſion for it; for, as the diſorder is occaſioned by want of proper food, the beſt method of promoting

promoting the cure is, intirely to alter the caſe; and, by giving him plenty of good food, and in due ſeaſon, will, without medicine, complete the cure.

The Apoplexy, or Staggers.

The ſymptoms preceeding this diſorder are, a bad appetite, feebleneſs, and a diſpoſition to reel; great dullneſs and drowſineſs; the eyes full, inflamed, and watery; the head conſtantly hanging, or reſting on the bottom of the manger; he will rear up, and ſometimes fall backwards when you touch his head. I think there can be nothing more abſurd and cruel than to ſtrike a horſe, with either whip or ſtick, about the head, which ſometimes is the forerunner of this diſorder. Want of exerciſe, and being conſtantly crammed with meat, is frequently the cauſe of this, as well as of many other diſorders. Therefore, if you would wiſh to keep

keep your horſe in perfect health, proper attention ſhould be paid to both on all occaſions. The firſt ſtep to be taken in this diſorder, is to bleed plentifully, if the horſe will bear it, which may be judged of by the habit of body he is in: If pretty high, you may take from him four or five quarts, and ſo in proportion to the ſtrength of the horſe. As the diſeaſe is generally occaſioned by too great a quantity of blood in the veſſels, therefore the ſooner it is reduced the better. Some authors have mentioned the different parts of the body from which blood ſhould be taken: Dr Bracken is of opinion, that it is a matter of indifference what part of the body it is taken from, as moſt places are alike; and the cure ſeems chiefly to depend on a proper quantity being taken away, rather than the part from which it is taken. He ſays, 'that, where one creature dies of a diſtempered brain, from the loſs of too much blood, there are twenty loſe their lives for want of taking away a ſufficient quanti-

ty.' After bleeding as above, it will be neceſſary to give the following ball.

Take of the cordial ball, (p. 94.) half a pound; of native cinnabar, one ounce; give the horſe about the bigneſs of a walnut every morning before exerciſe, which ſhould be very moderate for ſome time.

Dr Bracken ſays, it is on account of the great quantity of quick-ſilver in the cinnabar that the ſtreſs of the cure depends; and likewiſe a ſtrong decoction of ſenna, with ſome common ſalt, to be injected by way of clyſter, with a very long pipe, every evening or morning; and alſo the herb called aſſara-bacco, powdered; and, with a long ſmall tube or pipe, blown up the horſe's noſtrils, to the quantity of about half an egg-ſhell full, which is about a drachm in weight. This ſhould be done every evening, which will cauſe the noſe to run a thin watery humour, and which will give immediate eaſe to the head.

There

There are a number of receipts for the above diſorder; but, in the courſe of my experience, there is none better, if ſo good, as what I have mentioned, and is attended with much leſs expence and trouble than any other.

Of a Bone Spavin.

A bone ſpavin is a hard bony ſubſtance, or ſwelling, growing on the inſide of the hough of a horſe's leg, and ſometimes is placed in different parts, which I ſhall endeavour to deſcribe. It ſometimes begins in the lower part of the hough, which is by no means ſo dangerous as that which ſhows itſelf a little higher, between the two round proceſſes of the leg-bone. Another appears near the edge of the leg; and a fifth one towards the middle; but that towards the edge is by no means ſo dangerous, nor ſo troubleſome

troubleſome to the animal, as thoſe placed in any other part, as it affects the bending of the hough but in a ſmall degree, in compariſon to the others.

Before I proceed to the cure, it will be neceſſary to inform my readers, that this diſorder proceeds from different cauſes, ſuch as bruiſes, kicks from other horſes, or hard exerciſe: Some have it from nature; as I have ſeen colts, that never did a day's work, nor ever were near another horſe, to endanger their being kicked, put out both ſpavin and ſplints; but theſe, if taken in time, may be cured by very eaſy means; and, if neglected, not only become troubleſome, but attended with a great deal of pain to the poor animal.

As ſplints, ſpavins, ring-bones, and oſſlets, are much of the ſame nature, though differently ſituated, they being all of a bony excreſcence, I ſhall treat them all in the ſame manner; for the ſame method which will

will cure the one, will not be ineffectual in the others. Splints are hard excreſcences, which grow on both ſides of the fore-legs, a little below the knee; though ſometimes they do not cauſe lameneſs, which chiefly depends on the ſize and ſituation of them. Many young horſes are troubled with them in a ſmall degree, though frequently not lame; and, while that is the caſe, there will be no occaſion to apply any thing to remove them, as they frequently diſappear of themſelves. Oſſets are of the ſame nature with ſplints; only, that they are ſituated near the knee, on the inſide of the leg, and are of a gummy ſubſtance. The ring-bone is of the ſame nature with thoſe before mentioned, and is a hard ſwelling on the lower part of the paſtern, which generally extends itſelf half way round the fore part of it, nay, ſometimes intirely round it; ſo that, from its reſemblance to a ring, it has derived that name. Colts and young horſes are ſubject to ring-bones, which continue for ſome time, and then diſappear unperceived.

perceived. The horſes that are moſt ſubject to them are thoſe bred to the manage; and accounted for by being thrown on their haunches, where the weight of their body is ſo great on that part of the leg.

The firſt thing to be applied in caſes of the above kind is, bliſtering and firing; but, if the diſorder is taken in its infancy, bliſtering will alone be ſufficient; and, if of a long ſtanding, firing will be abſolutely neceſſary; though I once remember to have cured a horſe of a bone ſpavin that had been of a very long duration, by the following charge; which receipt was given me by a gentleman of great eminence in the farriery art; and, I believe, will prove equal to firing in any of the above diſorders.

The

The Charge.

Take common turpentine, ſix drachms; Burgundy pitch, one ounce; Æthiop's mineral, one ounce; Spaniſh flies in powder, two drachms; gum euphorbium, two drachms; corroſive ſublimate in powder, half a drachm; mix them well together. It will be neceſſary, before you apply the charge, (which muſt be done warm) that you ſhave the hair clean off, and ſpread the charge thick on leather; then bind it on, and let it remain till it comes off of itſelf, or you can take it off eaſily. After you have taken off the charge, you may heal the wound with the following ointment, and the cure will be complete.

Take common turpentine and bees-wax, of each half a pound; French verdigreaſe, in fine powder, one ounce and a half; freſh butter, clarified, one pound; honey, four ounces;

ounces ; mix them well, and keep it ſtirring till it is near cold, leſt the verdigreaſe fall to the bottom, and make the ointment too ſharp. The above charge and ointment may be applied with equal ſucceſs in all the above mentioned bony excreſcences.

Bruiſes on the Withers, Warbles on the Back, and Sit-faſts.

Bruiſes on the withers, warbles on the back, &c. are occaſioned in journies, and frequently by the ſaddle clapping cloſe on the ſhoulder, or otherwiſe not fitting the horſe's back. Therefore, every perſon that is deſirous of being carried well, ſhould particularly guard againſt theſe inconveniencies, which I have more fully expreſſed in my directions to travellers. See p. 46. This diſorder, if properly attended to in time, is very eaſily cured, by means of repellers.

Bathe

Bathe the part affected frequently with hot vinegar, verjuice, or old chamber-ley; if that does not ſucceed, it will be neceſſary to allow an ounce of oil of vitriol to a quart of vinegar; or you may uſe ſpirits of wine and camphire, which, I think, is much better. The proper quantity: Take ſpirits of wine, four ounces; camphire, ſix drachms; this ſhould be applied three or four times a day, which will certainly abate the ſwelling; and proper care ſhould be taken to remove the complaint, by getting the ſaddle properly ſtuffed, ſo as not to preſs on that part again, but in ſuch a manner, as not to allow it to hurt any other part of the back; if that is not properly attended to, the remedy will be as bad as the diſeaſe.

Warbles are ſmall ſwellings or tumours, occaſioned from the heat of the ſaddle in travelling; and horſes are much more ſubject to them in the ſummer than winter; therefore, the horſe's back ſhould be examined on coming into the inn; and, upon

the firſt appearance, any of the repellers before mentioned may be applied; and care ſhould be taken that the ſaddle be well dried, and the pannel made ſoft, before it is put on again. If the warbles ſhould continue after the above application, bathe the back frequently, with ſpirits of wine, two ounces; oil of turpentine, half an ounce; tincture of myrrh and aloes, of each two drachms, mixed well together.

A ſit-faſt proceeds from warbles ill-cured, which turn callous and horny, and are ſometimes cured by ſoftening ointments; but it is generally recommended to cut them out, and treat them as a green wound; in which caſe, the ointment (p. 127.) will be very proper.

Of

Of Mallenders and Sallenders.

Mallenders are ſituated on the inſide of the horſe's fore-leg, and are extremely troubleſome and painful, and cauſe the horſe to ſtumble; They are generally cured by mercurial applications; but firſt clip away the hair, and let the part be well waſhed with ſoft ſoap and water, and the ſcabs and ſcurf cleaned away; you may then apply the following ointment:

Take quick-ſilver and common turpentine, of each an ounce; incorporate them well together; ſpread them on tow, and dreſs morning and evening till the ſcabs are intirely gone.

Another.

Another.

Take hogs-lard, two ounces; ſublimate mercury, two drachms; or the ſame quantity of hogs-lard with two drachms of vitriol.

Dr Bracken recommends the following, which, I believe, may be relied on:

Take Flander's oil of bays, (for want of that) hogs-lard, two ounces; ſublimate mercury, two drachms; mix them, and anoint the part every night and morning for four turns; rub with a little quick-ſilver and hogs-lard for three or four days, which will bring off the ſcabs, and cauſe the hair to grow afreſh.

Sallanders are exactly of the ſame kind with Mallenders, only that they are ſituated on the inſide the bending of the hough of the

the hind legs, and cauſe a lameneſs behind. As they are the ſame diſtemper, the ſame method muſt be taken, and the ſame ointments applied.

Of the Strangles.

This diſtemper is moſtly incident to young horſes, and generally makes its appearance from three to five or ſix years old; if they eſcape till then, it is ſeldom they are troubled with it. In a great meaſure, this diſorder, as well as many others, I believe, proceeds from neglect, by not getting proper nouriſhment, or being kept warm when firſt taken into hand; for, of all the young horſes I ever had under my care, never any of them were ever troubled with this diſorder.

The ſymptoms of this diſtemper are, a ſevere cough, a violent heat and feveriſhneſs,

neſs, a great deſire to drink, without being able to ſwallow; and frequently they loſe their appetite. The ſwelling begins on the inſide of the jaw-bones, and ſometimes in the middle between them, and divide into ſeveral tumours and lumps, about the ſize of a ſmall hen egg, which, in ſome caſes, are obliged to be cut out, when they will not yield to other applications. In the firſt place, care ſhould be taken to keep the horſe warm, and particularly about the head, and neck, with a good thick hood, and the part rubbed frequently with ointment of marſh mallows, to ſoften it.

The following poultice muſt be applied, and renewed as often as it grows dry:

Take marſh mallow leaves, ten handfuls; white lily root, half a pound; boil theſe in water till they are very ſoft, and preſs them well; take lintſeed and fenugreek ſeed, of each four ounces; bruiſe them, and boil them in two quarts of water till they

come

come to a proper conſiſtence, after which, ſtir and beat them up well with the roots and leaves; then add four ounces of ointment of marſh mallows, and one pound of hogs lard; mix them well together, and keep it for uſe; take a ſufficient quantity and apply it to the part as warm as the horſe can bear it; and renew it as often as the old one becomes dry. This ſhould be applied for five or ſix days, which will bring the matter to a head. If it diſcharges itſelf freely, it will not be neceſſary to enlarge the opening; but, after it has run plentifully, apply the green ointment, (p. 127.) and the poultice above, till the glands are intirely fallen, and come to their natural ſize; as, by neglect of this, the part may remain big and ſwelled during all the horſe's lifetime. After the part is healed, it will be proper to anoint the part frequently with ointment of marſh mallows; a gentle purge may be given when the cure

is

is complete, and the horſe in a habit of body to receive it.

Of the running Thruſh and Canker.

The running thruſh and canker is a gathering of an ulcerous diſpoſition in the frog of the fore feet, which diſcharges a ſtinking kind of matter; it is natural to ſome horſes, as ſweaty feet are to men, and it is thought equally unſafe to dry it up. I have known many horſes troubled with it, during the courſe of their life, without being in the leaſt incommoded by it, or ever attended with lameneſs; but that muſt depend on the care of the groom or owner, to waſh the feet exceedingly clean whenever he comes in from exerciſe, or the road, to make the frog free from filth, dirt, or ſand, and to clip any looſe ragged part of it away: If it ſhould come to a greater height,

height, wash as above, with old chamberley; where the disorder is natural, the above, constantly applied, will be sufficient; but, if neglected, and the flux should grow stronger, it frequently turns into a canker; in which case, the following wash must be applied:

Take spirits of wine, two ounces; best white-wine vinegar, one pint; tincture of myrrh and aloes, one ounce; Egyptiacum, half an ounce; after you have bathed the thrush, dip tow into the wash, and stop the foot up with it, and fasten it in with small slips of wood under the shoe, to prevent it from coming out. As the sudden drying up of this distemper is sometimes attended with bad consequences, to prevent which, give the horse a gentle purge, a puffing ball or two, and let a little blood be taken from him, which will be very serviceable, and, in all probability, complete the cure.

Cankers in the feet of horſes are occaſioned by the running thruſh, which, when of long ſtanding, turn rotten and putrified.

The Cure.

Cut away that part of the frog and hoof which preſs on the part affected, and ſoften it with neats-feet or linſeed oil, and the wound dreſſed every day with oil of vitriol, or oil of aquafortis, and butter of antimony, till the humour is abated, when once in two or three days will be ſufficient. Fine precipitate powder muſt be ſtrewed over the new fleſh, till the ſole and frog begin to grow: Gentle purging, with care that no dirt or ſand gets into the part, is neceſſary to complete the cure.

Of Rowelling.

Rowelling, in many caſes, is a moſt uſeful operation, but frequently miſapplied. A rowel is an artificial vent, which is made between the ſkin and fleſh, in order to make derivations from parts that are relaxed, or weakened by long continued obſtructions, It is recommended in all aches and pains, ſwellings, lameneſs, and infirmities of the legs, diſorders from fullneſs, and want of exerciſe, ſharpneſs of the juices, defluxions of the eyes and lungs, &c. Its good effects ariſe from the gradual emptying of the veſſels in general, by which means the parts, ſo loaded or affected, are particularly eaſed, and the bad juices or humours are conveyed away with the blood, according to the quantity in it; for the matter diſcharged by a rowel is nothing more or leſs than blood being ſhed out of the veſſels, and its confinement,

confinement, and by that means loſes its natural colour.

Of Strains.

Horſes of all kinds are extremely liable to lameneſs, which is a diſorder more troubleſome to that noble animal than moſt others; and, if not properly attended to, of longer continuance. I have already treated with regard to a ſtrain in the back-ſinews, and the method of cure; I ſhall now endeavour to deſcribe, as near as poſſible, the different ſymptoms when differently ſituated.

A ſtrain in the ſhoulder is known by the horſe not being able to put his leg forward in a direct line as uſual, but will ſwing it round, and put his foot down hard: But the true way to find it out is, to turn him haſtily to the ſide he is lame on; and, if the

the diſorder be in the ſhoulder, you will the more eaſily perceive it, as he will ſhow his lameneſs in a greater degree. If you cannot find out the ſeat of the lameneſs, take off the ſhoe, and let the foot be carefully examined with a pair of pinchers; if it be in the foot he will immediately complain; then examine the foot more narrowly, to find out the cauſe, whether it ariſes from gravel, a prick of a nail, or the ſhoe ſet down too hard on his quarters. When nails, gravel, or ſtabs, have entered the horſe's feet, all poſſible care ſhould be taken to get them out, and dreſs the wound with oil of turpentine and tar mixed, which may be applied with a little lint, or ſoft tow, and the foot ſtopped up with a poultice of hogs-lard and bran. If the nail, gravel, ſtab, &c. are intirely got out, the above will complete the cure.—But, to return to the ſtrain in the ſhoulder:

The firſt thing neceſſary is, to bleed him, and let the whole ſhoulder be bathed frequently

quently with hot verjuice, or beſt old vinegar; if that does not ſucceed, and the lameneſs continue, let the part be well rubbed with two ounces of ſpirits of wine and camphire, and one ounce of oil of turpentine; or, inſtead of that, opodeldoch, well rubbed in, will be equally as good. After theſe applications, the horſe's head ſhould be tied up, leſt the heat ſhould cauſe him to knaw himſelf, which is ſometimes the caſe for want of care, and by that means retard the cure. If the ſhoulder ſhould ſwell, fomentations of hot verjuice and ſpirits of wine ſhould be applied over the whole ſhoulder; if the ſtrain be exceeding violent, and a flux of humour brought upon the part by the tention and heat, Dr Fracken recommends rowelling in the breaſt, and under the belly, which I have experienced to be very good.

The following ointment is recommended as the moſt proper for rowelling:

Take

Take of the green ointment (p. 127.) two ounces; cantharides, or Spaniſh flies, in powder, three drachms; work up ſome of this ointment every day into the wound with a feather, which will much increaſe the running.

A ſtrain in the coffin-joint is known by the horſe nuckling before, and only putting his toe to the ground. If this is taken in time, the oils, &c. uſed for the ſhoulder, will complete the cure; but, if of long continuance, bliſtering and firing is your only reſource. In all ſtrains whatſoever, time and patience are very requiſite to complete the cure. Therefore, after every proper method is taken to forward the cure, let the horſe be turned to graſs, and let him remain there till he is perfectly ſound; for, if taken up too ſoon, and put to work before the ſinews have gained their proper ſtrength, they certainly will give way again; and then all the labour is loſt, and the horſe in danger of being for ever lame.

Lameneſs

Lameneſs in the ſtifle is known by the horſe treading on his toe, and cannot get his heel to the ground. Bathe the part with verjuice, or vinegar; but, if the ſwelling increaſe, the fomentation, as before mentioned, frequently applied, will diſperſe it; and any of the medicines mentioned for ſtrains will complete the cure.

For a ſtrain in the hough, the coolers and repellers, formerly mentioned, and the charge for the ſpavin (p. 127.) will anſwer the end of firing.

Of Fevers.

Among the number of diſorders that are incident to horſes, there is not any that I have been ſo little acquainted with as fevers; therefore I ſhall not endeavour to enlarge on that head, but ſimply give my obſervations

ſervations on the ſymptoms of a horſe in that diſtemper, and the method of cure, from Dr Bracken, which, from experience, I have found effectual.

The Symptoms.

The eyes are red and inflamed; his flanks beat quick; his tongue parched and dry; great reſtleſſneſs in his ſtall; his breath is hot, and ſmells offenſively; he loſes his appetite, and the whole of his body is hotter than uſual; he dungs frequently, and in ſmall quantities; he has often a deſire to ſtale, but with difficulty can paſs his urine, which is of a high colour; he ſeems thirſty, drinks often, and but little at a time.

The Cure.

In the cure of a fever, bleeding is the firſt thing neceſſary; and clyſters, conſiſting of a ſtrong decoction of ſenna, with a quarter of a pound of coarſe ſugar diſſolved in each, and continued every day for five or ſix days, to keep the horſe's body open, which, with proper bleeding, is ſufficient to conquer the diſeaſe. His food ſhould be properly attended to, and given in ſmall quantities; for, if the horſe's ſtomach is overcharged, it will rather add to than diminiſh the diſeaſe. His water ſhould be given him warm, or milk and water, with a little oat meal ſtrewed upon it, and let the horſe take what quantity he pleaſes, which will be a means of diluting and cooling the blood. Bracken diſapproves of purging medicines by the mouth in fevers; for he ſays, 'they raiſe new and terrible commotions

tions in ſuch caſes, and may, in all likelihood, occaſion an inflammation in the guts, by deriving or drawing a quantity of the febrile matter that way.'

Before the following clyſter is applied, a ſmall hand and arm, well anointed with oil, or freſh butter, ſhould be introduced up the horſe's fundament, to bring away the hardened excrements. The clyſter pipe ſhould be large and long, that the liquor may be conveyed as far as poſſible into the guts; the inſtrument called a ſquirt ſeems to be the moſt proper, as it will contain near three quarts of liquor, which is near the quantity that ſhould be injected, allowing ſome little that may be ſpilt in the operation; for clyſters ſhould not be given in leſs quantities than two quarts; the reaſon for which, ſee p. 104.

The

The Clyſter.

Take of mallow leaves and pellatory of the wall, each four handfuls; aniſeed, and carraways bruiſed, of each one ounce; boil theſe in four quarts of water into three; then ſtrain it off, and add oil of olives, three ounces; coarſe ſugar, four ounces; of caryocoſtinum electuary, one ounce; mix them together, and inject it as warm as you can bear the heat of the bag on your cheek; after it is injected, keep the horſe's tail cloſe down, that he may retain the clyſter as long as poſſible.

Sand Cracks.

What is meant by a ſand crack, is a crack or ſmall cleft on the outſide of the hoof, near the heel, and is ſometimes occaſioned

ſioned by a horſe over-reaching himſelf when on exerciſe, or on the road. It frequently is troubl ſome to cure, when it penetrates through the bony part of the hoof; but, if it paſſes through the part that unites the hoof with the coronet, it is apt to breed a quitter, or falſe quarter. But, as I am not ſo well acquainted as I could wiſh, to give a proper deſcription of the different diſorders to which the feet of horſes are liable, I ſhall refer my readers to thoſe who have written more fully on the ſubject, and confine myſelf to the cure of a ſand crack when in a ſimple ſtate.

If the crack only penetrates through the hoof, without touching the ligament, it will be eaſily cured, by paring the edges ſmooth with a knife, or a raſp, and applying baſilicon and precipitate on thick tow, and binding it on with liſt, ſo as to keep out the dirt and ſand. If no other dangerous ſymptoms appear, what has been mentioned will be ſufficient.

Of

Of the Pole-evil.

The pole-evil is a ſwelling in the neck, immediately behind the ears. It takes its riſe from bruiſes, cruſhes, or being ſeverely pinched by the halter; therefore, as young horſes, when ſent to the ſmith's ſhop to be ſhoed, are apt to fly back at the ſparks, which are occaſioned by hammering the hot iron; and their halters being generally ſtrong and large, are very apt to bruiſe that part, and cauſe the diſorder, which ſhould be particularly guarded againſt, by wrapping the halter round with ſoft liſt, to make it eaſy for the part. The firſt appearance of the pole-evil is ſwelling, which ſhould be bathed frequently with hot vinegar. If an oozing ariſe through the ſkin, ſome ſpirits of wine mixed with the vinegar will be proper, viz. two parts of vinegar to one of ſpirits of wine. If an inflammation ſhould enſue, bleeding, with poultices of bread

bread and milk, are proper. If taken in time, the aſſiſtance of a gentle purge or two, will ſometimes prevent this diſagreeable diſorder; but, when it becomes obſtinate, and diſcharges matter, the beſt way is to bring it forward with poultices, which ſhould be continued till it burſts, which is much ſafer and better than applying the knife. The wound ſhould then be properly examined; and, if any cavities are diſcovered, they ſhould be carefully opened, and the wound dreſſed with a mixture of honey, turpentine, and tincture of myrrh. After the wound has diſcharged itſelf properly, the following waſh may be applied hot, and the wound filled up with ſoft tow, ſoaked therein.

Take white vitriol diſſolved in ſpring water, half an ounce; vinegar, half a pint; tincture of myrrh, four ounces.

Mr Gibſon informs us, that he has cured this diſorder by no other means than conſtantly

ſtantly waſhing with the above twice a day, and laying over the part a quantity of tow ſoaked in vinegar, and the white of eggs, which can eaſily be taken off when there is occaſion to dreſs the wound again. Particular care muſt be taken to keep the part warm with a thick hood, or flannel wrapped round the head and neck. Bracken informs us, that, for want of care in the beginning, 'it degenerates into a hollow crooked ulcer, full of ſharp humours, and the bones of the neck become foul and decayed.' In that caſe, he has ſome doubts if a cure can be made effectual; but, at the ſame time, he adds, 'if the matter diſcharged do not partake of an ill ſmell, &c. oil of turpentine, poured hot into the ſinus, or hollow wound, every morning, and the following ointment, once a day, muſt be rubbed into the ſwelling, which will be moſt likely to ſucceed:'

Take oil of bays, half a pound; oil of turpentine, two ounces; quick-ſilver, three ounces;

ounces, mixed; be careful to let none of the particles of the quick-ſilver appear when mixed with the other ingredients.

Of Lampas, Barbs, and Wolves-teeth.

Young horſes are moſt ſubject to the lampas, which is an excreſcence in the roof of their mouth, and ſometimes riſes above the teeth, and prevents the horſe from feeding. The common method of cure is, to burn them out with a hot iron; but I have cured horſes frequently of that diſorder by no other application than waſhing the mouth frequently with ſtrong allum water, which deadened the part, and the ſwelling in a ſhort time diſappeared.

Barbs are ſmall excreſcences under the tongue, and are cured by cutting them clean

out, and rubbing the part with ſpirits of wine, brandy, or ſalt and water.

Old horſes are moſt ſubject to wolves-teeth; for, as the horſe grows in years, the teeth grow in length, and the upper ones over-ſhoot the under, by which means they cut the tongue, gums, or lips of the horſe, and prevent his feeding. I once knew a horſe die of this diſeaſe, owing to the ignorance of a groom, who could not find out what was the matter with him. However, he gave him plenty of phyſic, (which is too often the caſe) not conſidering whether he required it or not; when, in reality, the poor animal only wanted food or, at leaſt, the means to eat it. The method of cure is, to file them down, and make them ſmooth, ſo that they do not offend the part again. It will be proper to waſh the horſe's mouth with water, to take away the filings of the teeth, which is all that is neceſſary to be done.

Of

Of the Greaſe.

In the former part of this work, I have made ſome obſervations on the greaſe, and how to prevent it. Leſt, from neglect, the diſorder ſhould come to a greater height, I ſhall mention the different ſtages of the diſorder, with the method of cure.

When a horſe's heels begin to ſwell in the ſtable, and go down after exerciſe, upon his coming into the ſtable, his legs and heels ſhould be well waſhed with ſoap and warm water, chamber-ley, or vinegar; tho' I believe the firſt to be the moſt proper. If there is no other appearance than ſwelling, after the waſhing, let his legs and heels be rubbed till they are perfectly dry and clean; and, if the diſorder ariſe from no other cauſe than want of exerciſe, and care to rub his feet well, and keep them clean, by perſevering

ſevering as above, the diſeaſe will ſoon ſubſide. If the diſorder ſhould increaſe, the following waſh ſhould be uſed:

Take ſpirits of wine, four ounces, and diſſolve in it half an ounce of camphire; add verjuice, half a pint, with an ounce of white vitriol, diſſolved in a ſmall quantity of water; mix them together, and ſhake the bottle when uſed.

If the horſe's heels ſwell to a great degree, and become much cracked, and diſcharge a ſtinking matter, let the hair be clipped clean from them, and the parts of the leg ſo affected waſhed clean with ſoap and water; after which apply the following poultice:

Take boiled turnips, maſh them well, and mix them with hogs-lard, and a little turpentine; this ſhould be applied till the ſwelling abates, and the matter diſcharged, when

when you may dry up the wounds with the following drying water:

Take roach alum and white vitriol, burnt and powdered, of each two ounces; bole armoniac in powder, two ounces; camphire in powder, one ounce; two quarts of ſoft water made hot; and ſtir the other ingredients into it till they are properly mixed. This ſhould be uſed warm, and the parts waſhed with a piece of flannel, or a ſponge, three or four days, twice a day, which will dry it up intirely.

The ſcratches, or cracks in the heels, are exceeding troubleſome and ſore, and cauſe a prodigious ſtiffneſs and pain, eſpecially when firſt taken out of the ſtable. Horſes are very ſubject to this diſorder from travelling in hot weather and ſandy roads, and neglecting to get their heels waſhed out clean at every ſtage; for, as I have frequently ſaid before, moſt diſorders are brought on horſes by neglect, which I much wonder at;

at; for, if a perſon has no regard for a horſe, I ſhould imagine he would ſtudy his own eaſe and ſafety; for, if a horſe cannot travel with eaſe to himſelf, it is impoſſible for him to carry his rider with any degree of pleaſure. If the ſcratches run, the cure mentioned for the greaſe will be moſt proper; but if of a dry nature, let the heels, after exerciſe or travelling, be well waſhed out with warm water, and made perfectly clean and dry; rub into the part a little neats-feet oil, or carriers dubbing, which will ſoften the cracks, and give the horſe eaſe; and, by a conſtant uſe of ſuch treatment, the legs and heels will become clean and ſound, and it certainly will be the fault of the groom or owner if ſuch diſorder is allowed to return. One thing I had almoſt omitted in the cure for the greaſe, &c. which is, that the horſe ſhould be provided with a double ſtall, or open ſtable, and well littered, that he may have liberty to walk about, lie down at eaſe, and ſtretch out his legs at pleaſure; for, if a horſe is confined

in

in his ſtall, and obliged to lie with his legs cramped under him, it will much retard the cure. But the moſt effectual method is to turn him to graſs, if poſſible, which will cool his heels; and his conſtant motion will cauſe the ſwelling to diſperſe. If not convenient for the owner to want the uſe of the horſe through the day, let him be taken up in the morning, and turned out again at night, which will anſwer the end intended, and complete the cure, when many other things may prove ineffectual.

The Farcin.

The farcin is the moſt loathſome and diſagreeable diſorder that horſes are ſubject to, and is occaſioned by a diſtemper of the blood veſſels; it makes its appearance with hard ſmall lumps, ſomething like warbles on the back, which ſpring over the veins, and are exceeding painful though hard; in the

the beginning, they ſoon turn ſoft, like bliſters, which break, and diſcharge a bloody matter. It appears in different parts of the body; ſometimes on the head, at others in the plate-vein, and extends downwards to the inſide of the fore-leg, and often round the briſket, likewiſe in the hind-legs, and ſpreads itſelf through the large veins on the inſide of the thigh, towards the ſheath, and ſometimes over the whole body. The kind which begins on the head and cheeks are much eaſier cured than thoſe ſituated in other parts of the body, provided they do not reach the kernels of the jaw and ear-roots, which is apt to bring on the glanders; and, if the cure be not ſpeedy, it is frequently attended with many other diſorders, almoſt as tedious in the cure as itſelf. It is ſometimes extremely difficult to cure when ſituated on the hind legs, and runs up into the kernels of the groin, and likewiſe when between the fore-legs; in thoſe caſes there are great doubts of a perfect cure, unleſs it be ſtopped in time. In the

cure

cure of the farcin, the horſe's ſtrength muſt be conſulted, as it is neceſſary to begin with a courſe of purgative medicines, if the horſe be able to bear it; but, if of a low habit of body, it would be abſurd to proceed in that way. But, as no general rule can be laid down in that caſe, the owner or farrier muſt judge for themſelves, whether the horſe be able to bear it or not. Monſieur Solleyſell will by no means allow purging, unleſs the horſe be bound in the belly; and, in that caſe, he recommends clyſters. But I am of opinion, that, if the horſe be full of fleſh, gentle purging is abſolutely neceſſary. After having been ſufficiently bled, which is the firſt ſtep to be taken, the common aloes purge is moſtly recommended, (the receipt hereafter) which muſt be repeated two or three times; and the proper time between each doſe ſhould be, at leaſt, eight days. Bracken, whoſe receipts I have found in general good, informs us, that a lean horſe in the farcin does not require bleeding or purging, but rather a courſe of ſudorific,

or ſweating and alterative medicines; therefore, whether the horſe troubled with this diſtemper be fat or lean, the following ball will be proper to be continued for three weeks or a month.

Take native cinnabar, four ounces; gum guaiacum, one ounce; zedoary root and galanga, of each half an ounce; diaphoretic antimony, one ounce; Venice treacle, three ounces; mix theſe up with a pound of the cordial ball, (p. 94.). The bigneſs of a pigeon's egg of this ball ſhould be given twice a day, before his water, and duly exercised regularly every day, according to his ſtrength.

I muſt here give an advice to every groom, never to want ſome of this cordial ball; for, by the conſtant uſe of it, with proper care, and regard to regular exerciſe, good clean food, and proper dreſſing, a horſe will ſeldom require any other medicine, unleſs his diſorders ariſe from accident.

Of

Of the Diſeaſes of the Eyes.

Diſorders of the eyes, from external injuries, ſuch as bites, blows, knocks, &c. if it cauſe the eye to water, and the lid to ſwell, bathe the part with cold ſpring water and vinegar; if the ſwelling be conſiderable, it would be proper to bleed, and apply a poultice of boiled apples; take out the core and kernels, and make them perfectly ſoft. When the ſwelling is abated, the following eye-water may be uſed.

Take white vitriol and roach alum, each an ounce; burn them in a clean fire-ſhovel; mix them with three pints of boiling water.

Another cooling Eye-water.

Take vitriol, half an ounce; ſugar of lead, two drachms, diſſolved in a pint of ſpring water.

An

An excellent Ointment for a wound on the Eye.

Take ointment of tutty, one ounce; honey of roſes, two drachms; white vitriol burnt, one ſcruple; mix theſe, and apply them with a feather a little warm between the eye-lids, morning and evening. It will be neceſſary to bathe the eye once a day with milk and water.

Inflammations and running of the eyes are frequently occaſioned by bad treatment, ſevere exerciſe, and a ſudden change from high to very low feeding. Phyſic, rowelling, &c. are by no means neceſſary in diſorders of the eyes, when external; but, on the contrary, are preſcribed in inflammatory and rheumy caſes; but ſhould be given cautiouſly. For my own part, I am a great enemy to phyſic, and would avoid it to the utmoſt of my power, but in caſes where it is abſolutely neceſſary, and it ſhould be then given with as much caution as poſſible. Many people

people imagine their horſes cannot be well, unleſs they are conſtantly cramming them with drugs, and frequently bring on diſeaſes by what they very fooliſhly imagined was to preſerve health.

The proper Purge for an Inflammation, or Rheumy Eyes.

Take aloes, ten drachms; cream of tartar, one ounce; oil of aniſeed, two drachms; ſyrup of buckthorn, as much as is ſufficient to make it into a ball. Bleeding, purging, &c. being over, it will be proper to bathe the eyes frequently with the eye-water before mentioned; it will be likewiſe proper to ſquirt ſome of the water into the eye, three or four times a day, which ſhould be done warm. The intention of this is to heal and dry the ſmall ulcers or wounds that are about the outward part of the eye, that the lodgment of the ſharp humour may not further hurt its

its tender fibres. I am fully certain, that, in ſlight caſes, what I have mentioned will complete the cure: But, as the diſorders of the eyes are numerous, and as various the preſcriptions made uſe of for their cure, leſt I ſhould lead my readers in the dark, I rather refer them to thoſe of more experience with regard to the diſorders of the eyes, and who have treated more largely on the ſubject; as I by no means would advance any thing in this treatiſe but what I had found, from experience, to be effectual.

Molten Greaſe.

Molten greaſe is a term only made uſe of by farriers; and, as far as I can learn, conveys no meaning with regard to the diſorder, which is occaſioned by letting the horſe cool too ſuddenly, or riding him up to his belly in water when all over ſweat, which ſtops the perſpiration and pores of the ſkin, and

and melts the greaſe of the guts from too ſudden ſtoppage of the perſpiration.

This diſtemper is brought on by violent exerciſe, and generally happens in very hot weather; the ſymptoms are frequently like that of a fever; and, indeed, it frequently attends the diſorder: The horſe will ſtart and tremble, attended with great ſickneſs and a ſhortneſs of breath; a ſcouring will next enſue, and the dung he paſſes extremely greaſy; his blood when cold will be covered with greaſe of a yellowiſh, or rather buff colour, and the congealed part is like a mixture of greaſe and ſize. The next ſymptoms are loſs of fleſh, great ſwelling of the legs, and continue in that ſtate till the diſorder is removed; which if not done ſpeedily, ſome other diſorder or diſorders generally attend it, ſuch as ſurfit, hide bound, farcin, &c. which, perhaps, may be more difficult to remove than the diſtemper that firſt brought it on. In the beginning of this diſorder, it is generally recommended to bleed plentifully,

ly, and to be repeated for two or three days, decreaſing the quantity each time: Rowelling is likewiſe recommended, and a cooling clyſter given daily to abate the fever and drain off the greaſy matter from the guts: Give the horſe plenty of warm water with cream of tartar in it, to dilute and attenuate the blood. When the fever is abated, and the horſe has recovered his appetite, the following gentle purge may be given every eight days for ſix weeks; it ſometimes does not act by purging, but by perſpiration and urine.

Take ſuccotrine aloes, ſix drachms; of diaphoretic antimony and powder of myrrh, two drachms of each; gum guaiacum powdered, half an ounce; mix them all together with a ſufficient quantity of buckthorn to make them into a ball; a little nitre given in his feeds will be of ſervice, or an ounce of the nitre made into a ball with honey, and continued

tinued for ſome time will be neceſſary to compleat the cure.

This method of cure, I know, has been attended with ſucceſs; but, as the term Molten Greaſe is in my humble opinion nothing more or leſs than a violent cold, owing to a ſudden ſtopage of perſpiration; though I muſt allow, colds are the beginning of almoſt every diſorder, yet, if they are properly attended to in time, they are eaſily removed, but, if neglected, may bring on many diſeaſes more difficult of cure than itſelf; now, as I am certain, that the term Molten Greaſe muſt come under the denomination of colds, I would ſtrongly recommend the method made uſe of for the curing that diſorder, which will fully anſwer your expectation. See the chapter on colds (p. 87.)

Of Wind Galls, Bog, and Blood Spavins.

Wind gales are ſeated on the fore and hind legs, and are occaſioned by ſlight ſtrains, ſevere exerciſe, or travelling. It is a ſwelling ſituated a little above the fetlock joint, which will yield to the ſqueeze of the hand, and inſtantly return to its former ſize; they moſtly conſiſt of air and a watery fluid, which may be ſafely opened and treated as a green wound; this I would by no means recommend, as it is ſometimes attended with bad conſequences; and, though what I am going to preſcribe may be attended with a little more trouble, and require ſome patience, yet, I am ſenſible, it will entirely remove the complaint. In the firſt place, reſt is neceſſary, and a conſtant application of aſtringents; for which purpoſe, take old verjuice warm, and bathe the part, rolling round the leg a piece of flannel dipped in the ſame, and, bound faſt on with a bandage

or

or liſt, will in a ſhort time cauſe the ſwelling to ſubſide; if the diſorder be of long ſtanding, it will be more difficult to remove: If that ſhould be the caſe, I would recommend gentle bliſtering to effect the cure; after the bliſters come off, it would be proper to keep the part ſoft, and bring off the ſcabs by an application of the bliſtering ointment once a fortnight, which will prevent any ſcars remaining, which is always the caſe when firing is applied for the cure.

A Blood Spavin.

I can by no means deſcribe this diſorder equal to Dr Bracken; therefore, in juſtice to him, I ſhall give his own deſcription and method of cure, which is far ſuperior to any I ever knew, or, I believe, is practiſed by moſt farriers.

Deſcrip-

Deſcription of a Blood Spavin.

'It is a dilatation or ſwelling of a vein on the inſide of a horſe's hough, where the blood in the veins turn into a kind of eddy, and form ſuch tumours. The cure of the blood ſpavin is the ſame as that for an aneuriſm or dilatation of an artery; only one thing material muſt be minded, in which the tying up of a vein, and the tying up of an artery differ in an eminent degree; for the arterial blood circulates from larger into ſmaller veſſels, but the venal from ſmaller to larger: So that, if you tie a vein above the hough, without tying it alſo below, the tumour muſt neceſſarily increaſe, as the blood meets with reſiſtance at the ligature, for the veins carry back to the heart the ſuperabundant blood from the arteries; therefore, a vein muſt be tied below, and an artery above the hough, to cure a ſwelling or dilatation, of which I am now treating; and, really, no one

one thing is more common amongſt the ignorant blundering farriers, than to tie up a vein on the wrong ſide the varicoſe tumour; for theſe fellows have no notion of the difference between a vein and artery. Therefore, they imagine, that all the blood veſſels are alike, and convey that fluid from the heart to the extreme parts of the body, without carrying any of it back again. From what has been ſaid, it may be obſerved, that the cure of a blood ſpavin conſiſts in diſſecting the ſkin and muſcular fleſh of the vein, but ſo as not to cut any, or, however, very few of the carnous fibres tranſverſely. Then paſs a piece of ſtrong ſilk doubled, and well waxed with bees wax, both below and above the tumour, which is performed by a crooked needle not very ſharp, with an eye in the point, ſufficiently large that the thread may leave it eaſily; and, when the blood veſſel is well tied both above and below the ſwelling, cut it in two in the middle, and heal the wound with the common green ointment,

(p. 127.)

(p. 127.) Some farriers give the fire after tying up the vein; but I think ſuch practice unneceſſary.'

A Bog Spavin.

Some people are of opinion, that a bog and a blood ſpavin are both the ſame, being ſituated on, or near the ſame place; which is a groſs miſtake; for, on opening the one, it will iſſue out blood, and the other, a browniſh jelly, and reſembles a wind-gall, and much of the ſame nature, owing to a tendon being ſtrained further than its proper power of elaſticity will admit of. The cure preſcribed for wind-galls may be ſucceſsfully uſed for the bog ſpavin.

Of

Of Ulcers.

In the beginning of all ulcers, have recourſe to internal remedies, ſeeing they proceed from an indiſpoſition of the blood and juices; therefore, lay a foundation for the cure by bringing them into proper order with the following alterative and ſweetening medicines:

A Sweetening Drink

Take of the ſhavings of guaiacum, two pounds; liquorice-root ſliced, four ounces; crude antimony, groſsly powdered, and put into a bag, one pound; boil theſe in three gallons of ſpring water for an hour, and keep the decoction upon the ingredients in a clean earthen pan for uſe. Give the horſe a horn twice or thrice a day, and continued to do

do ſo for a month or two, or as long as you find it neceſſary, leaving it off for a week now and then, that the horſe may not be cloyed by it: Or the following gentle alterative purge may be given twice a week.

Take lenitive electuary, eight ounces; jalap and ſcammony powdered, of each one ounce; cinnabar and gum guaiacum, of each two ounces; camphor, half an ounce; ſyrup of buckthorn, a ſufficient quantity to make it into a ball.

Or,

Take aloes, ſix drachms; gum guaiacum, half an ounce; diaphoretic antimony and ſalt of tartar, of each two drachms, made into a ball with ſyrup of buckthorn.

Another.

Another.

Take ſuccotrine aloes, half an ounce; cream of tartar, half an ounce; powder of jalap and ſalt of tartar, of each one drachm, made into a ball with oil of amber.

Either of the above may be given once every eight days, until the cure be completed. During the application of theſe medicines, the horſe ſhould have plenty of warm water, and frequently maſhes of ſcalded bran: They generally operate by urine; and, after the firſt or ſecond time, by a gentle purge.

External Applications.

The firſt thing to be done is, to bring the ulcer to diſcharge the thick matter, which is generally done by the uſe of the green

ointment. See p. 127. If that does not ſucceed, but diſcharge a watery matter, warmer dreſſings will be neceſſary; ſuch as oil of turpentine, mixed with the common digeſtive ointment; and a poultice of ſtrong beer, oat meal, turpentine, and hogs-lard over them. If the edges or lips of the ulcer grow hard, pare them down with a ſharp knife, and afterwards rub them with cauſtic; if the ſoft fleſh ſhould riſe above the ſurface, the ſame means muſt be uſed; and ſprinkle the part with red precipitate and alum burnt; fill up the wound with dry lint, and roll over it a bandage as tight as poſſible, which will be a means of cauſing theſe excreſcences to ſubſide. When cavities are diſcovered, they ſhould be laid open: If they do not penetrate into the muſcles, &c. opening is dangerous; in which caſe Mr Gibſon has recommended the following drying injection, which may be relied on:

Take

Take Roman vitriol, half an ounce; diſſolve it in a pint of water; then decant and ſtrain it off gently into a large bottle; add half a pint of camphorated ſpirits of wine; the ſame quantity of the beſt vinegar, and two ounces of Egyptiacum. This, if properly applied, and ſtrict attention paid to the alteratives before mentioned, will, in moſt caſes, be ſufficient to complete the cure. The above injection may be ſucceſſfully applied to running greaſy heels.

Of Coughs and Aſthma.

There is not any thing more difficult to cure than a ſettled cough; and, particularly, if proper attention is not paid to the different ſymptoms, to form an idea of one cough from another, and the cauſe from which they ariſe. If the cough be of long ſtanding, attended with weakneſs, loſs of

flesh and appetite; in this case, a consumption is likely to ensue; and the most proper methods of cure are those made use of in consumptions.

In asthmatic cases, the symptoms are, a sudden quick motion of the flank, thickness of breathing, a husky and dry cough, with a wheezing and rattling in the throat, attended with a discharge of white phlegmy matter at mouth and nose; this may be more particularly observed after drinking, or at the end of a gallop, which is very serviceable, and gives great relief. Horses, after having run out all winter, are subject to coughs, purfive, and thick-windedness, which frequently, to horses that are too full fed, and want of proper exercise, and others from foul feeding, which are easily removed by their being reversed. In the cure of these disorders, bleeding is necessary; as to the quantity, I will not pretend to mention; that should depend on the situation of the horse's body: If full of flesh, he will admit

of

of a greater quantity being taken from him; and ſo in proportion, decreaſe according to the horſe's ſtrength. In moſt of the above caſes, mercurial medicines have been found effectual; therefore, a mercurial ball may be given at night, and the following alterative purge, from Mr Gibſon's experience, in the morning, which may be repeated every eight days, with a ſufficient quantity of warm water, ſcalded bran, &c. this, and a conſtant application of the ſo much eſteemed cordial ball, (p. 94.) will be ſufficient to complete the cure, which I have found from experience. Mr Bartlet recommends the following:

Take of the cordial ball, one pound; balſam of Peru, half an ounce; balſam of ſulphur, aniſated, one ounce; flowers of Benjamin, half an ounce; honey, as much as is ſufficient to form them into a paſte. Give the ſize of a pigeon's egg every morning.

There

There are ſome horſes troubled with a dry huſky cough, which by no means prevents them from undergoing their buſineſs or exerciſe properly; they feed well, and appear in perfect health: This is called a nervous aſthma. In the firſt place, bleeding moderately (as in all coughs and colds,) is neceſſary at night, give him two drachms of calomel, to which add one ounce of diapente; and, the next morning, a gentle purge, which may be repeated, if found neceſſary, in eight days. I muſt once more add, that good clothing, a warm ſtable, well littered, proper dreſſing, and regular exerciſe, will forward the cure more than all the medicines in the world; and ſuch care and attention being paid to the horſe, while in health, is the only means to prevent his being liable to any diſorder whatſoever. In the above caſe, I muſt likewiſe add, that the uſe of the cordial ball, every morning before exerciſe, will be exceedingly proper, as it will ſoften the cough, and cauſe him to breathe

breathe more freely; and, by a continuance of it, intirely remove the complaint.

The following is an excellent ball for an obſtinate dry cough, and may be given as above:

Take native cinnabar, finely levigated, half a pound; gum guaiacum, four ounces; myrrh, and gum ammoniac, of each two ounces; to which add Venice ſoap, half a pound; mix them to the conſiſtence of a ball with oxymel ſquills.

Colts and young horſes are very liable to colds after they are taken up from graſs, and frequently attended with a cough, which may be eaſily cured, if taken in time, by moderate bleeding, warm maſhes, proper exerciſe and keeping, without the application of medicine.

Of

Of the Colt Evil.

The colt evil takes its riſe from ſtone colts having their full liberty with mares, before they are able to cover them, which ſhould as much as poſſible be guarded againſt, and ſeparated from them before they have the leaſt inclination; ſometimes the ſheath will be ſwelled, which may be occaſioned by ſand, dirt, or naſtineſs gathering there, which may eaſily be removed, by waſhing the part with warm ſmall beer, and butter will abate the ſwelling and remove the diſorder; if the yard ſhould happen to ſwell, which ſometimes will happen without your being able to judge of the cauſe; the following fomentation will be exceedingly proper, to apply it morning and evening, as warm as the horſe can bear it.

Take

Take the leaves of mallows and marſh mallows; flowers of camomile, melilot, and fumitory, of each three handfulls; roſemary, origanum or wild thyme, ſouthernwood and flowers of elder; of each two handfulls; juniper, and laurel berries, bruiſed, of each four ounces; boil theſe in eight quarts of water to ſix, then ſtrain out the liquor, and with two pieces of flannel, by turns foment the part. As in the operation the horſe will be extremely reſtleſs, and by being made faſt, ſometimes hurt himſelf; therefore, the moſt ſafe and eaſy method, is to take a piece of flannel, cut thus ▷, with a ſtring at each point, long enough to faſten on the top of his loins, two of the ſtrings coming up his flanks, and the other between his hind legs, and all three faſten together; by this means, you have juſt room enough to ſhift the flannels as often as you think proper, which may be done with the aſſiſtance of another perſon holding up the horſe's fore leg, while you are removing them, to prevent being kicked by him; during the

operation, it would be neceſſary to have a fire near hand, or a chaffi g-diſh of coals in the ſtable, to keep the fomentation properly warm. The yard of ſome horſes is frequently infla ned by his having too many mares, or too raſh in covering, which not only cauſes inflammation, but ſometimes the ſkin to be fretted off; in which caſe, make uſe of the following ointment.

Take of Venice turpentine, two ounces; honey of roſes, one ounce; to which add the yolkes of two eggs. This may be applied twice a day, by means of two or three feathers tied together, dipped in the ointment, and thruſt up between the yard and the ſheath; when the part is only inflamed, the following waſh applied warm, will frequently complete the cure.

Take one quart of lime water, to which add an ounce of ſugar of lead.

I have been informed, that ſtone horſes are ſometimes liable to be clapped, or troubled with what they term the chaude or hot piſs; if that is the caſe, it certainly muſt be owing to the horſe having got too many mares; in that caſe, the owner is to blame in allowing it; therefore, I would recommend it to every perſon that ſends a mare to the horſe, to know if poſſible what number he has got in the courſe of the ſeaſon, or, at leaſt, when he had a mare laſt; for, I have known horſes that attend public markets, cover eight or ten mares in a day, when, in my humble opinion, two is ſufficient, evening and morning; but, of this I have already treated more fully in its proper place. With regard to horſes being troubled with the chaude or hot piſs, I do not remember, in the courſe of my experience, ever to have ſeen one in that ſituation; therefore, ſhall decline ſaying any thing more on that ſubject, than, if it ſhould happen, nothing can be of more ſervice than cold bathing, which may

may

be done by riding him into a water till it runs over his loins, or plunging him backwards into a pond, &c. every day.

I ſhall now conclude with the moſt approved method of docking, nicking, and gelding.

Gelding.

This is an operation that requires particular care and judgement; and, by moſt profeſſors of the art, not ſo properly attended to as the nature of it requires; indeed, the gelding a foal when running at the foot of his dam, is a very ſimple operation; and, though I have mentioned, in the former part of this work, that I would not geld a colt till he became two or three years old, my reaſon for that was, to be a means of improving his fore hand, which it will undoubtedly do; but to thoſe that prefer eaſe and ſafety to beauty, I would recommend gelding

gelding at half a year old, or ſooner, if the warmth of the ſeaſon will admit of it; the night preceeding the operation, let the mare and foal be taken into the ſtable.

After the ſtones are taken away, and the blood ſtopped with a hot iron, let the part be anointed with burnt butter, which ſhould be uſed frequently, until the part be perfectly healed. It will be neceſſary to keep the foal in for a day or two, and then turned out all day, and taken in again at night, to prevent cold, for two or three nights more, when there will not be the leaſt danger. When a colt is gelded ſo early, it will be neceſſary to take particular care of him thro' the winter; for, if neglected, and uſed roughly, it will be a means of hurting his form, and cauſe him to dwindle, and prevent him from ever coming to that ſize and ſtrength that he would have arrived at by proper care. Were I to breed myſelf, I would never give a colt leſs than ten or twelve months milk, which will add greatly

to

to his ſtrength, and enable him to endure the hardſhips of the winter; and, more particularly ſo, if the mare be well fed, which ſhould be the caſe, if you would obſerve the old proverb, 'and would not loſe a ſheep for a half-penny worth of tar.' With regard to the treatment of colts, after taken from their dam, I have been more particular in its proper place.

When colts arrive at two or three years old before they are gelded, particular care ſhould be taken in the operation, as much more ſkill is required. The day preceeding, very little water ſhould be given; in the morning, let his yard and ſheath be well waſhed, ſo as to cleanſe it from gravel, ſand, dirt, &c. which frequently gather there. Let the horſe ſufficiently tire himſelf before you begin, to prevent, as much as poſſible, his ſtruggling during the operation, by which means he ſometimes ſtrains himſelf, and very often is attended with diſagreeable conſequences. When he is perfectly

perfectly quiet, you may proceed to open the ſcrotum or bag; then carefully take up the ſtones, and ſecure the veſſels, which is moſt effectually done by means of an inſtrument invented for that purpoſe, made of box, or any other kind of hard wood; then gather the veſſels properly together; but by no means ſtretch them; for, if they are, it will, in all probability, cauſe a weakneſs, or bring on other diſagreeable ſymptoms. This being ſtrictly obſerved, tie them faſt with a ſtrong wax thread; then cut off the teſticles; and be ſure you take away the nature-ſtring; for, if it be left on, which is ſometimes the caſe, the horſe will ever have a deſire for mares, and is conſtantly teazing when at graſs, though unable to cover them: This gives riſe to that abſurd notion and phraſe, ſo common to many people, that ſuch a horſe is a wriggel, or wrigglin; and imagine that one of his ſtones remain in his back, and is not taken away; which is a circumſtance that very ſeldom happens. I would adviſe

every

every perſon that is poſſeſſed of ſuch a horſe, not to let him run at graſs with mares; for it is more than a hundred to one but he is lamed by them; therefore it is more eaſy to prevent the accident, than to cure the diſeaſe. I muſt acknowledge, that thoſe kind of horſes are generally exceeding hardy, and undergo a great deal of fatigue; but, it being ſo hazardous to turn them to graſs, makes the keeping of them, to ſome people, diſagreeable. After the teſticles are taken off, anoint the part with the common wound ointment, or burnt butter; and let the horſe be kept in the ſtable to prevent catching cold, till he be perfectly well; or, at leaſt, apply a little tar to the part, to keep the flies from being troubleſome.

The above method may be taken with old horſes, or thoſe who have covered mares; and is the moſt ſafe and effectual of any hitherto attempted. Should a fever or inflammation follow the operation, bleeding

bleeding is abſolutely neceſſary, and the horſe treated as preſcribed in the chapter on fevers. If the belly and ſheath ſhould ſwell, foment it frequently till the ſwelling ſubſides, with vinegar and oil of roſes, applied hot to the part.

I had almoſt omitted one particular circumſtance with regard to the treatment of old horſes, both before and after they are gelded: The day before gelding, he ſhould not be allowed any water at all; and afterwards, till he be well, or at leaſt out of danger, not more than three quarts a day. This, with a warm ſtable and good clothing, will be a great means of forwarding the cure.

Docking.

Docking is ſo ſeldom attended with any bad conſequences, that almoſt every farrier

and groom will attempt the operation, tho' his recovery is more frequently owing to a good habit of body than any merit in the operator; for I have ſeen a horſe moſt cruelly butchered, and his tail bruiſed to pieces, and no ill conſequence attend it. Though this may ſometimes happen, yet it is too often the contrary; and many good horſes are killed by the ill treatment of thoſe that pretend to what they are ignorant of. The moſt approved method is the chopping machine, which I ſhall endeavour to deſcribe:

It conſiſts of a piece of wood, at top and bottom, of a foot and a half in length, by one foot in breadth: When the bottom part is ſtanding on the ground, the other, by the help of a check, or teeth, may be raiſed higher or lower, according to the ſize of the horſe. The wood at the top muſt be in proportion thick to the length and width, with a ſtaple in one end, to receive a hook at the end of the knife. I can by no means deſcribe the form of it ſo well,

as

as it can be underſtood by thoſe kind of inſtruments made uſe of by heel or laſt makers; only it will be neceſſary that the blade be ſomewhat longer. The handle ſhould be of a proper length, ſo as to come over the end of the top, at leaſt a foot, as it will give the operator more freedom. After the machine is placed at a proper height, let one man ſtand at the horſe's head, and one at each quarter; place the dock fair on the board, and obſerve that the edge of the knife be in a line with the joint of the tail; then bring it ſmartly down upon the dock, which will take it off with the greateſt eaſe, without bruiſing the dock in the leaſt. Firing with a hot iron is generally made uſe of to ſtop the blood; but the moſt ſafe and effectual method is, to take up the blood veſſels with a needle and thread, and tie them faſt, which will ſtop the blood more effectually than by firing; for, if the knife be not properly poliſhed, and wiped perfectly clean, before it is applied to the part, which ſhould not be too hot, for by that

means

means the ſcab that is formed ſometimes comes off, and a freſh bleeding enſues, which is not only diſagreeable, but difficult to ſtop, and attended with an inflammation and fever, &c.; but, when no ſuch ſymptoms appear, there will be little occaſion for any thing more than anointing the part with the common wound ointment; and, when it is properly digeſted, waſh it with alum-water; but, if an inflammation enſues, and diſcharges a thin matter, apply the following:

Take Venice turpentine, and tincture of myrrh, of each an ounce; mix it up with the yolke of an egg; it will be proper to put over it a poultice of bread and milk, and bathe the dock frequently with oil of roſes and vinegar warm.

Of Nicking.

This, in my opinion, is a very cruel operation, and might eaſily be omitted in all kinds of horſes; and is a thing I totally object to, as it cannot anſwer any purpoſe more than adding in ſome degree to his beauty; but, if any perſon can be reconciled to putting ſo noble an animal to torture, I ſhall leave them to the freedom of their own will; but I muſt firſt inform my readers of an invention of my own, and never put in execution but by myſelf, which will prevent the cruel operation of nicking, and, as far as I have experienced, anſwer the purpoſe, and would wiſh every perſon, for the eaſe and ſafety of his horſe, to adopt the plan, when you dock your horſe, as mentioned in the preceeding chapter. But, before I go further, it will be neceſſary to give a deſcription of the horſe's tail. There are a ſet of muſcles in the upper and under part of the tail, the one ſerving to lift up, and the other to bring down the tail; now, the cauſe

why

why a horſe carries a better tail after nicking than before, is owing to the tendons in the under part being ſtronger than thoſe above, and keep it down in ſo great a degree; to remedy which, the under tendons are cut, and ſeparated by means of the pulley and dreſſings, ſo that they cannot unite again, and by that means loſe their power, and thoſe on the top retain it. I ſhall now give a deſcription of my invention to prevent this operation, which can only be done with horſes that have full tails, or thoſe whoſe docks have been left on longer than you would chooſe to have them. When the operation of docking is performed, the tendons inſtantly ſtart, and ſtop the blood as before mentioned; the horſe muſt then be put in the pulley, as if he really had been nicked, until the rump be perfectly healed, otherwiſe, it will not have the deſired effect. There are many horſes, after nicking, who do not carry their tails ſo well as could be wiſhed, owing ſometimes to the operator not cutting the tendons properly, or by cutting them through on one ſide and not the other,

which

which is the cauſe of the horſe carrying his tail to one ſide; it may likewiſe be occaſioned by the horſe ſtanding to one ſide of the ſtall when in the pulley, and the weight not being immediately behind him; to prevent which, I would recommend the uſe of Mr Bartlet's machine for that purpoſe, which will totally prevent any ſuch thing happening, and cauſe the horſe to carry a better tail, than any pulley whatſoever. See the deſcription of the machine, in his treatiſe, p. 332. Indeed, improvements might be made even in thoſe with a pulley; for inſtance, a roller ſhould be placed acroſs the ſtall, immediately above the ſaddle part of the horſe's back, and another in the uſual place, which will bring his tail to a better form than when put up in the manner generally made uſe of, which only brings it to a perpendicular, whereas, the other will give the tail a more beautiful ſet. Though I am an enemy to nicking, I cannot omit ſpeaking of, and laying down a rule for the treatment of horſes under that operation. The number of nicks or inciſions ſhould not be

more

more than three, unleſs the dock be longer than uſual; if that ſhould be the caſe, a fourth will be neceſſary; after the inciſions are made, it will be proper to apply to each nick, pledgits of lint, gently preſſed into the wound; after which, let the whole underſide of the tail be covered with a large pledgit of tow, and wrapped round with a bandage of linen. Every two or three days the tail may be let down, and the horſe rode out, that you may be able to judge how he will carry it; if you think not high enough, you need only add a little more weight to the pulley, or, if you make uſe of Bartlet's machine, make it more tight to the pad; by paying proper attention to this, the horſe cannot fail of carrying a good tail; it will be neceſſary to keep him in the pulley till the nicks are turned callous or near healed, and then, a few hours in the day will be ſufficient.

FINIS.